25 killed in bloody, fiery road accidents

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2001 ★ 34 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 102 P15

'YANG MGA HUMAHARANG, NAPADALI TULOY!

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Tiger ends slump** SPORTS / A15
- **Russia arming Iran; US alarmed** WORLD / A9
- **RP to protest Chinese poaching** NEWS / A2

WOODS

Reyes named new defense secretary

Appointment rushed to heal rift in AFP, says Palace

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

DUE to military intramurals, President Macapagal-Arroyo has rushed the appointment of newly retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes as secretary of national defense.

Malacañang announced the appointment even as it admitted that the infighting for the top defense post had affected the operations of government and hastened Ms Macapagal's appointment of Reyes.

In a hastily called press briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Renato Corona said Ms Macapagal signed the appointment of Reyes yesterday to take effect immediately.

Asked why there seemed to be a rush to appoint Reyes after the President had said there was no hurry to fill the defense post, Corona admitted military intramurals caused the President to change her mind.

"There's some kind of factionalism going on (in the military) and I think it's best that we put an end to it," Corona told Palace reporters.

The President had postponed naming a permanent defense secretary, since the post was being held in an acting capacity by Rep. Eduardo Ermita, a retired general.

But this time, Corona admitted, Malacañang was not inclined to have a repeat of the intense "bickering and wrangling" that accompanied the appointment of the AFP chief of staff, which was described as "destructive and divisive."

Last weekend, talk surfaced about Ermita's attempts to, block the appointment of Reyes to head

REYES/ A14

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Officers of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines present on Monday an album of photographs of the late President Diosdado Macapagal to his daughter, now a President herself.

JOAN BONDOC

RP made no request for evidence vs Aranetas

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

GERMAN officials investigating Irene Marcos-Araneta for alleged "money laundering" said yesterday that they had received no request from either Philippine or Swiss authorities for any evidence related to their probe.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government had earlier said that Philippine envoys in Germany and the Zurich district attorney had requested the Germans to furnish them with copies of the evidence reportedly handed over by Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf.

Johannes Mocken, spokesperson of the Dusseldorf public prosecutor's office, said the investigation was "quite complete" but at the same time added that it might take a few weeks or months to wrap up.

He said that the Philippine "honorary consul" to Dusseldorf, whom he identified only as a certain "Ms Wandelt," had called up his office inquiring about the probe.

She wanted to know what written statements had been released to the press relating to the investigation, but did not ask for any documentary or other evidence, he said.

Mocken said he told her the same thing he had said to the INQUIRER and German newspapers about the alleged money-laundering attempt: that Irene's Deutsche Bank accounts in Dusseldorf remained inactive after they were opened in early February, and that the bank later cancelled the accounts.

"The accused had telephoned Deutsche Bank and said that money would come in, but it didn't come," he said.

In Malacañang, asked why the government had not questioned Irene, her husband Gregorio Araneta or the Marcoses regarding the report of the alleged money-laundering attempt, Presidential Spokesperson Renato Corona said: "We can . . . but we're still awaiting our copies of the evidence."

Mocken, when asked if Swiss authorities had asked for documents

RP/ A14

We can do it, Comelec assures Congress

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND VOLT CONTRERAS

DESPITE the election campaign and boycott by several legislators, 14 senators and 127 members of the House of Representatives made it to the first day of the three-day special session aimed at passing a law allowing a special registration for first-time voters.

Despite some misgivings, Alfredo Benipayo, chair of the Commission on Elections, last night assured the Senate that it was "possible" for the poll body to conduct a special registration for new voters if Congress amended the current law.

In the House, Comelec Commissioner Resurrecion Borra drew applause when he boldly replied "*kakayanin namin* (we'll get it done)" to a question about the agency's capacity to handle the list-up.

The House last night started deliberations on a proposal to hold the special registration on April 10 and 11.

The dates were agreed upon earlier in the day in a hearing called by the House Committee on Suffrage

WE / A14

Erap claims double jeopardy

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

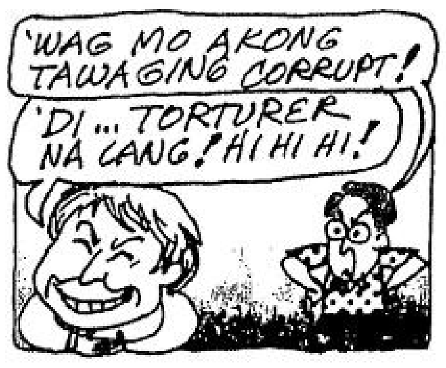
LAWYERS of disgraced President Joseph Estrada yesterday told the Supreme Court that prosecuting him would violate the constitutional provision against "double jeopardy."

The Constitution says that "no person shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment for the same offense."

Lawyers Pacifico Agabin and Cleofe Villar-Verzola said the termination of the impeachment trial against Estrada on Jan. 16 was "tantamount to acquittal" because it did not result in his conviction.

Estrada was accused of bribery, graft and corrupt practices, betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution before the Senate impeachment court.

ERAP/ A14


'WAG MO AKONG TAWAGING CORRUPT!
'DI ... TORTURER NA LANG! HI HI HI!

Told to apologize, Joker calls Ping another name

BY TJ BURGONIO AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

FACED with a P20-million libel suit for calling opposition candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson "corrupt," rival senatorial bet Joker Arroyo yesterday added insult to insult and branded him a "torturer."

Lacson had said he would withdraw the suit against Arroyo, which he filed yesterday in Trece Martires in Cavite, "if he apologizes."

"Why should I apologize to a torturer?" Arroyo said when sought for a reaction.

TOLD/ A14

25 killed in bloody, fiery road accidents

BY CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA, ALCUIN PAPA AND CARMELA REYES

TWENTY-FIVE lives were lost in two separate vehicular accidents in Parañaque City and the North Expressway in Bocaue, Bulacan before dawn yesterday.

At the southbound lane of the Coastal Road in Parañaque, a fuel truck went out of control and struck five jeeps, killing 14 people, including at least two children, and injuring several others. The casualties were aboard the jeeps or were commuters on a roadside near a seafood market waiting for a ride.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was "deeply saddened" by the accidents and ordered a thorough investigation and a review of road safety in the areas of the crashes.

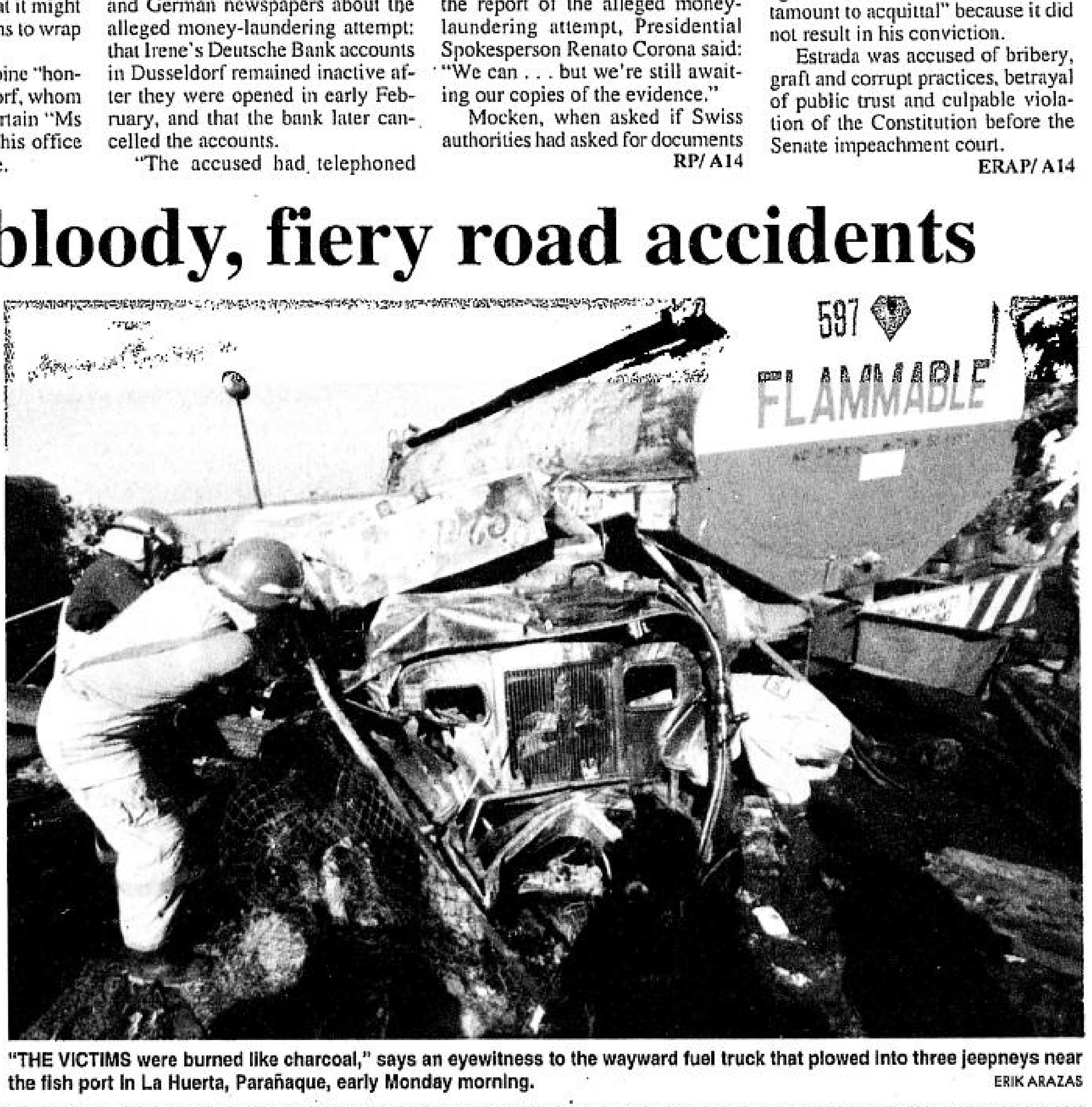
"The loss of lives of innocent people could have been avoided had everyone concerned observed proper road safety precautions," she said in a statement.

At the North Expressway on Barangay Bolakan in Bocaue, a Manila-bound cargo truck skidded across a grassy island divider into oncoming traffic, ramming a passenger bus bound for Nueva Ecija. Eleven people were killed and at least nine others were injured. The collision was so great some victims were thrown several meters off the vehicles.

The Coastal Road mishap happened at around 5:30 a.m., just as the area was starting to fill with commuters, mostly bound for Cavite.

It was not yet clear why the driver of the fuel

25 KILLED/ A5



"THE VICTIMS were burned like charcoal," says an eyewitness to the wayward fuel truck that plowed into three jeepneys near the fish port in La Huerta, Parañaque, early Monday morning.

ERIK ARAZAS

Second FRONT PAGE

'DI PWEDE YUN !

RP to protest Sino poaching

By Rocky Nazareno
and Christine Herrera

THE PHILIPPINES will file a diplomatic protest with Beijing over increased incursions of Chinese fishing boats into the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said yesterday that based on Philippine Navy reports, the number of Chinese fishing vessels that have strayed into the area was growing.

Chinese fleets with about 13 to 18 vessels were regularly seen poaching at the shoal, Golez said.

The Cabinet has decided to send a diplomatic protest to let China know that its fishermen have been entering our territory,'' he told radio station dzBB.

Last week, Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungyi assured the Philippines the 10 fishing boats spotted recently at Scarborough Shoal were there to seek refuge from inclement weather and not to poach on fishing grounds.

Following a courtesy call on Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona, Wang told interviewers the fishing boats were merely passing through on their way to China from Indonesia.

"They entered the territorial waters of the Philippines not (to) fish. They came across the sea because of the strong tidal waves," Wang said.

He said that because of the "tidal waves" the vessels had "to anchor near a very small island where they found (by a Philippine Navy patrol boat)."

Despite the withdrawal of the Chinese vessels from Scarborough, the Philippine military has ordered its troops to remain on alert.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said that as of yesterday, no Chinese fishing boat was sighted within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the shoal.

This was because the military had confronted the last Chinese fishermen, some of whom were in "frog suits," he said.

Confiscated from the Chinese were a barrel of cyanide, dynamite and blasting caps. Giant clams and other endangered species were also found on the vessels.

He said no surveillance equipment were found on the ships, indicating the Chinese were not engaged in spying at the shoal.

Rear Admiral Victorino Hingco, Philippine Navy flag officer in command, said more than 20 sightings of illegal fishermen were recorded by the military in the past three months.

Scarborough Shoal is a rocky outcrop about 125 nautical miles west of Luzon that is being claimed by both Manila and Beijing.

It lies northeast of the Spratlys archipelago, which is also being claimed by both countries, as well as Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The Navy made no arrests last week and the Chinese were allowed to leave after they handed over their illegal catch and the explosives they were carrying.

Golez downplayed the possibility the incident could erupt into a diplomatic row, saying the Philippines would send only a "routine diplomatic protest" to Beijing.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said that during his courtesy call on Guingona, Ambassador Wang made the assurance that the Chinese government was not planning to "do a Mischief Reef at Scarborough."

In 1996, the Chinese government built a "fishermen's shelter" at Mischief Reef, one of the Spratly islands.

The government has charged the shelter was really built to house Chinese military personnel and equipment to spy on the Philippines.

"They have no intention of doing a Mischief Reef, that is one of the firm commitments (of the Chinese government)," Baja said.

With AP and AFP reports

Candidates deny keeping private armies

By Volt Contreras

"MAYBE they mistook my wife for a private army."

Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy Alvarez yesterday laughed off his inclusion in police watchlist of alleged warlords planning to unleash armed goons this election season.

An Ilocos Sur mayor also denied maintaining a partisan armed group though his name cropped up in the list of the 91 private armies currently being monitored by the Philippine National Police.

The confidential list obtained through police intelligence sources was the basis of an Inquirer front page story yesterday.

"This is an election period so things like that happen," he said, suggesting he might just be the target of black propaganda by political rivals.

"But if you'll ask my constituents, I go out in the streets alone. I have an "unarmed" bodyguard—one who distributes my (campaign) calendars," the congressman told the Inquirer.

"Or maybe the private army referred to was my wife," he said in jest.

The police watchlist claimed that Alvarado got a recent visit from members of the New People's Army at his house, fuelling allegations that he keeps assorted firearms to be used by his supporters come election time.

To this he reacted: "Maybe they (my accusers) came up with this claim because I hold a weekly People's Day and actually I don't really chose the people I entertain."

The camp of Mayor Alfred Figueras of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur, also tried to steer clear and issued a flat denial through his wife Perla.

"He goes around town without a private army, not one bodyguard," she said in a phone interview. "I wonder where the police got that."

NOTICE

The Social Justice Society (SJS) published an advertisement on page A9 of the Sunday, March 18, 2001 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Based on the official receipt, this political advertisement was paid for by the Social Justice Society through its president Samson S. Alcantara This notice is in compliance with guidelines that require media outfits to indicate the party/ies who caused the publication of political ads.

Hecklers hired, says Palace

MALACAÑANG yesterday accused the opposition of paying people to mess up the campaign rallies of the People Power Coalition.

"Obviously, they were paid to create trouble, especially those who were screaming and shouting invectives," presidential spokesman Renato Corona said of the over a hundred supporters of disgraced President Joseph Estrada who caused a commotion during the PPC rally in Davao.

"There is no doubt that they were paid. The stakes may be higher. They may have been paid handsomely," he said in Filipino.

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April 6 - Fri. España 10-12 am; 3-5 pm; 6-8 pm
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Doc slain, village head seized by Basilan bandits

LAMITAN, Basilan—Bandits shot dead a doctor and abducted a barangay captain here on Sunday while in Sarangani province, police and military rescued the 20-year-old daughter of a bank executive, 16 days after she was kidnapped in General Santos City.

Dr. Pilardo Perez, 37, and his father-in-law, Jovito McLintock, chair of Barangay Maloong-San Jose, were on board an Isuzu Hi-lander van en route to Lamitan when the vehicle was rammed and fired at by gunmen riding a Tamaraw FX.

Six armed men alighted from the FX, took control of the Isuzu van and brought the passengers, which included McLintock's wife and two bodyguards, toward Tandung Ahas beach in Barangay Ulami where they announced the kidnap, Southcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Danilo Servando said.

The incident took place in the remote village of Balagtasan on Basilan island, the scene of notorious kidnappings by Abu Sayyaf bandits and others.

Servando said Perez tried to resist and was shot in the head. He died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Lamitan Mayor Inocente Ramos said McLintock is "the only recognized wealthy person in Maloong but he is a very good man, a respected man."

Jaime Ramos, one of McLintock's bodyguards, recalled that the six armed men were wearing fatigue uniforms and had informed them that they were integrees (members of the Moro National Liberation Front integrated into the military or police). He said they were told that McLintock was being invited by a top provincial official whom he did not name. *Julie Alipala-Inot, Jonathan F. Ma and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

AFP wants to keep Moro camps

By Christine Herrera

THE ARMED Forces does not favor giving up the seized camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, particularly the main Camp Abubakar, but will pull out if told to do so by President Macapagal-Arroyo to pave the way for peace talks with the rebels.

. AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva expressed some misgivings about the reported MILF demand that the military give up control of Camp Abubakar and 40 other satellite camps as a precondition for the talks.

In a news conference yesterday, Villanueva said the government should take into consideration that the takeover of the MILF camps last year had cost many military lives.

But in deference to the wishes of the President and commander in chief, the military will have no choice but to give up the camps, Villanueva said.

"We adhere to the political leadership. Whatever the political leadership or the President says, we will follow, especially if she tells us to return the camps to the MILF," the AFP chief said.

The Armed Forces would pull out its troops from the camps "once we get the order from the President," he said.

Villanueva expressed confidence that Ms Macapagal would not give up the camps without trying to get better concessions in return during the talks.

Despite isolated clashes with MILF guerrillas during regular security patrols, government troops were holding their ground in the camps, he said.

"The troops have been ordered to continue to protect the camps from intruders or from any attempt to retake them until they are told otherwise," Villanueva said.

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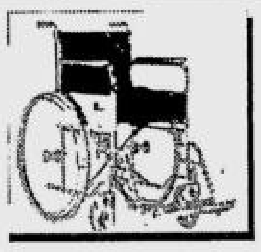

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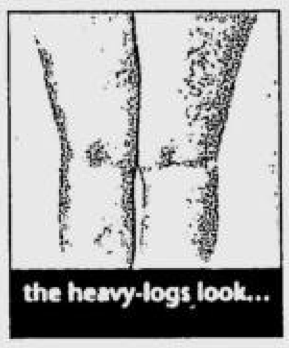

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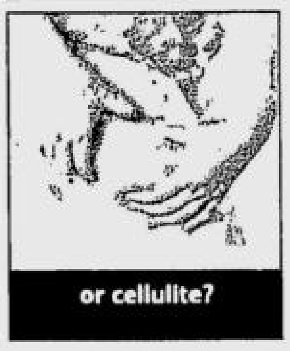

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Watch out, 'Barok' is coming

By C. D. Balana

JOLINA, Darna, Zuma, Kaka, Labuyo, Pogi, Chedeng, Batibot and Lawin.

These are only a few of the 100 new names for tropical storms officially adopted by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration starting this year up to 2016.

The first typhoon to hit the country this year was named Auring. The next will be called Barok.

Pagasa Director Leoncio Amadore said that the adoption of local names for tropical storm was meant to "enhance awareness of the public, especially the disaster coordinating councils, of the existence of a tropical cyclone within the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), and that it may adversely affect any part of the country within a few days."

Typhoons in the past were all called female names.

Amadore said that most of the new native names were derived from the winning names in the "Name a Bagyo" Contest sponsored by Pagasa in 1999.

A survey within the agency this year resulted in some of the winning names being replaced.

There will, however, be a continuing review of the new list of local names, as necessary.

The choice for names was based on the guidelines issued by the executive search committee of the said agency.

Names must have no derogatory meaning, must not exceed nine letters and three syllables, and must reflect the culture of the people.

Pagasa said they did not allow names starting from x and ng.

"This time, even tropical depressions have names," said Amadore.

At least 19 typhoons enter the country each year. The first typhoon to hit the country was reported in 1897. It was named "El Baguio de Samar y Leyte."

For 2001, 2005, 2009 and 2013, the typhoons will be called Auring, Barok, Crising, Darna, Emong, Feria, Gorio, Huaning, Isang, Jolina, Kiko, Labuyo, Maring, Nanang, Ondoy, Pabling, Quedan, Roleta, Sibak, Talahib, Urbeng, Vinta, Wilma, Yaning and Zuma.

For 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014, the typhoons will be called Agaton, Basyang, Caloy, Dagul, Espada, Florita, Gloria, Hambalos, Inday, Juan, Kaka, Lagalag, Milenyo, Neneng, Ompong, Paeng, Quadro, Rapido, Sibasib, Tagbanwa, Usman, Venus, Wisik, Yayang and Zeny.

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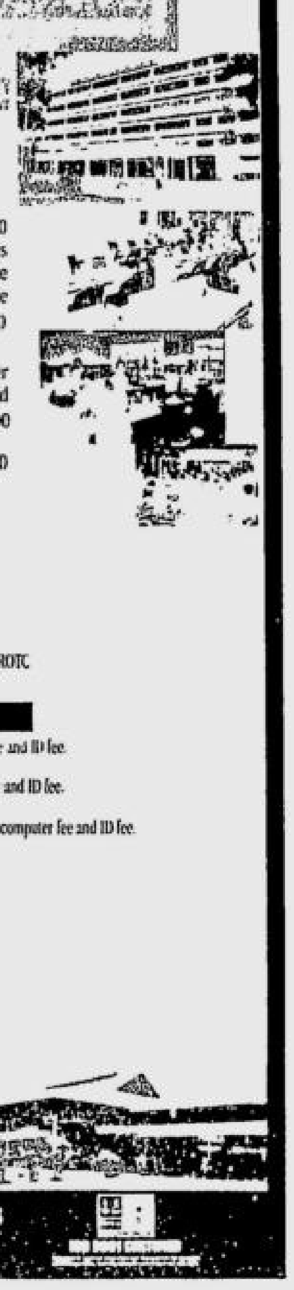

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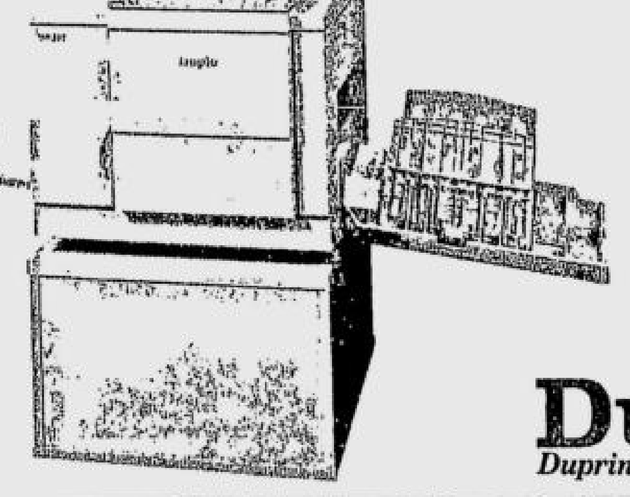

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25 killed in bloody, fiery road accidents

(From page A1)

truck lost control of the vehicle but Reuters quoted a restaurant owner who said the truck's tire burst and then crashed into the vehicles and pedestrians waiting for a ride.

The truck's gasoline tank exploded on impact, setting several of the smashed jeeps on fire. The fuel tank at the back of the truck did not explode.

For several hours after the accident, dozens of police, soldiers and firefighters used bolt cutters and other tools to cut through the charred, mangled jeeps, extracting one by one the 12 dead passengers, some burnt to the bone. Two people by the roadside also burned to death.

Parañaque police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles said the truck driver escaped but is expected to be surrendered to the police by his employers.

Wayward truck

Luciano Lozada, who was aboard one of the jeeps, said he and his wife jumped out of the vehicle when they saw the wayward fuel truck speeding toward them.

"We ran but suddenly there were pockets of fire flying about," Lozada told dzMM. "I saw my wife's back on fire and she rolled over on the road to put it out."

His wife was in a hospital with third-degree burns.

"It's a miracle we survived. The fire was so huge, its red and blue flames crackled with what smelled like gas and tire burning," said Charri Cruz, who owns a restaurant near the site.

"The victims were burned like charcoal. We saw one person in flames running away from the scene," she said.

Police were finding it difficult to identify the fatalities because of the extent of their burns. The remains were sent to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for identification.

Robert Malabanan, a spokesman of Pilipinas Shell, said the fuel truck had picked up 20,000 liters of diesel fuel from the Shell depot half an hour before the accident occurred.

"It was on its way to Cavite when it went off the road and plowed through certain vehicles," he said. "What triggered the truck to get off the road, we don't know."

A statement from Pilipinas Shell clarified that the truck was owned and operated by DP Freight. Chupsie Medina, Shell's corporate affairs coordinator for media, said the oil firm was extending and will continue to extend assistance to the families of the victims through DP Freight.

Expressway accident

The North Expressway accident happened four hours earlier, at 1:35 a.m.

A passenger of the Manila-bound cargo truck told investigators that they were avoiding an overtaking vehicle, prompting the truck driver to swerve to the left. The truck crossed to the opposite lane, hitting the RamTrans bus.

Most of the 11 fatalities were passengers of the Cabanatuan City-bound bus.

Seven of the fatalities were killed instantly while four others died on the way to nearby hospitals.

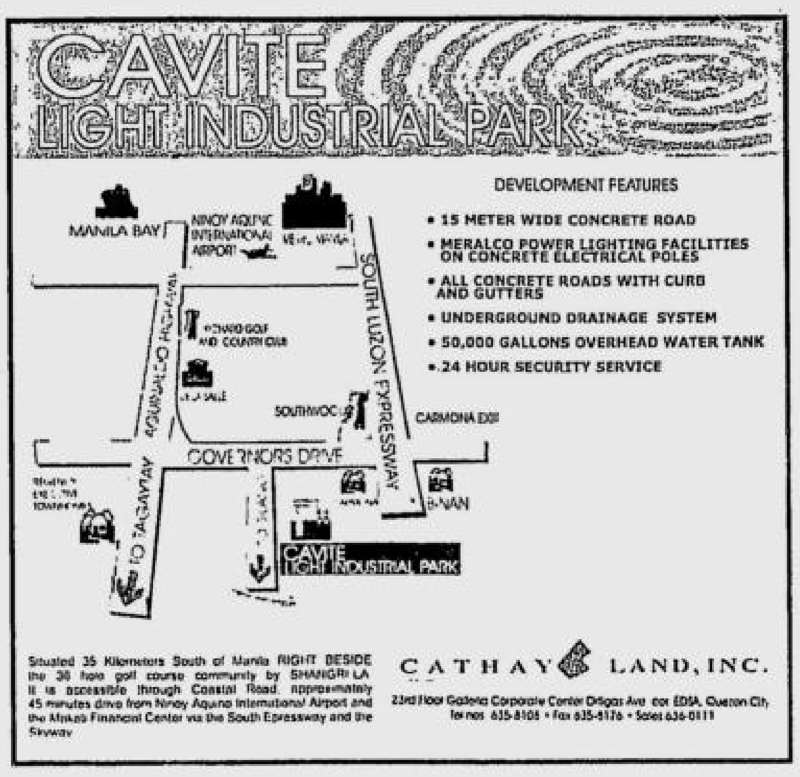
Several injured people were later transferred to the National Orthopedic Center in Quezon City.

William Alcantara, patrol security supervisor of the Philippine National Construction Co., identified the fatalities as bus driver Cesar Jose Dimla, bus conductor Henry Dantes, Amelito Laderas, Sergio Gaspar, Gaudencio Bernabe, Melencio Rodriguez, Teofilo Denseng, Raymond Magayong, Juanito Buenaventura, Francisco Tamayo and Ronaldo Ventig.

The truck driver was among the fatalities, but authorities have yet to identify him, said PNCC's Estacio Lapuz.

The impact of the collision was so powerful that the bus crumpled in the middle. Rescuers had a hard time retrieving the bodies from the wrecked bus.

Police in Camp Olivas said charges of multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries and damage to property were being readied against the trucking company. *With reports from Ronnel Domingo in Manila, Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Inquirer wires*



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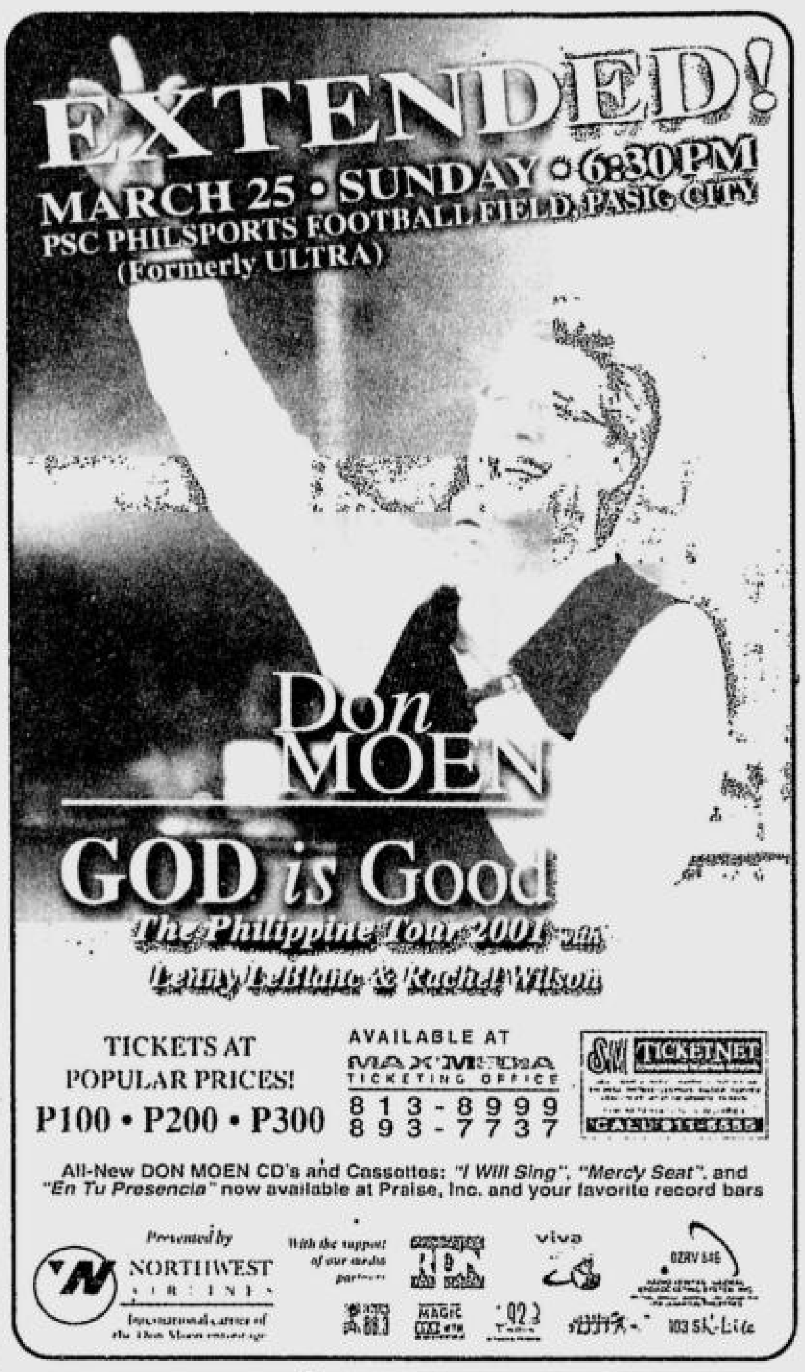
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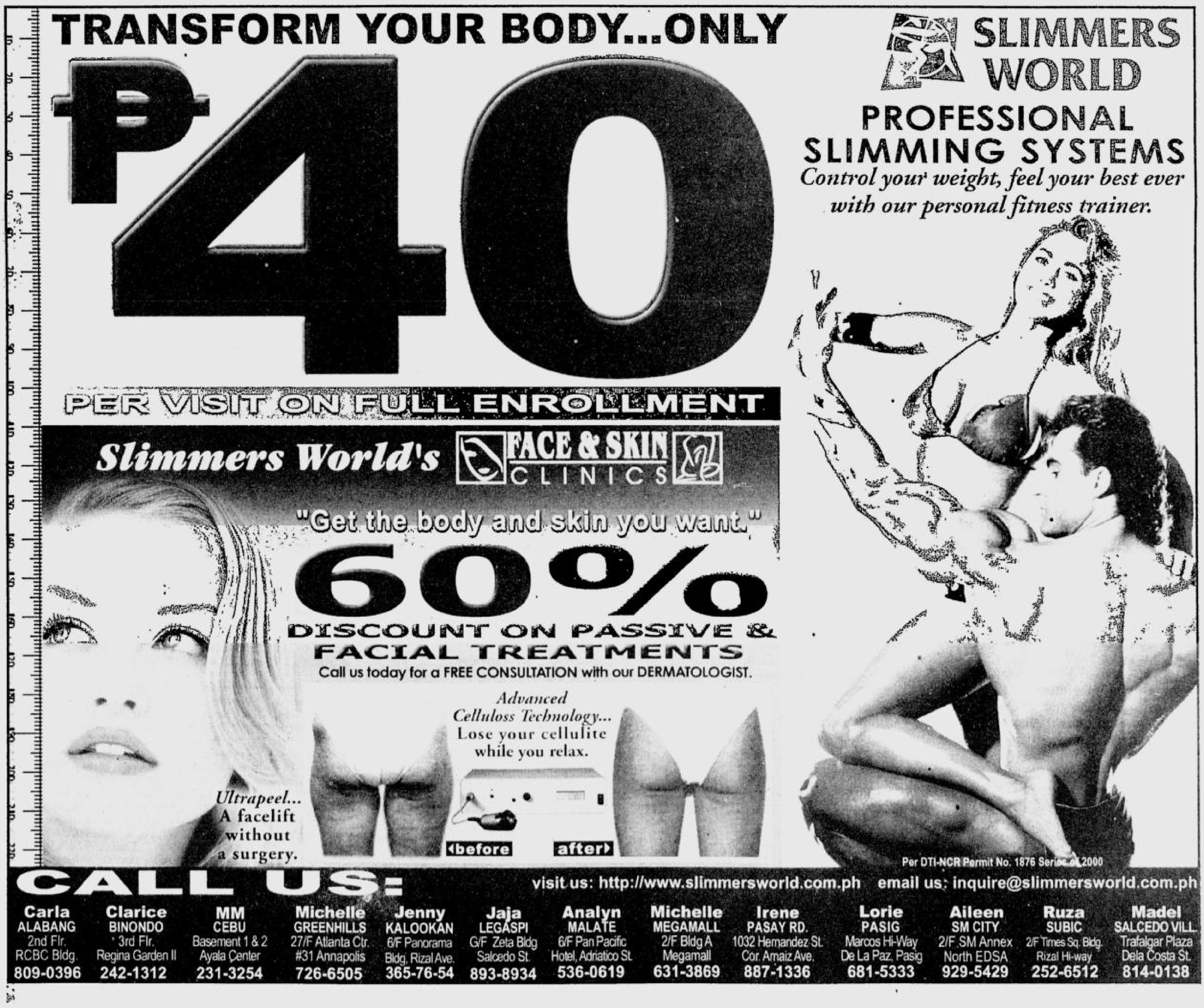
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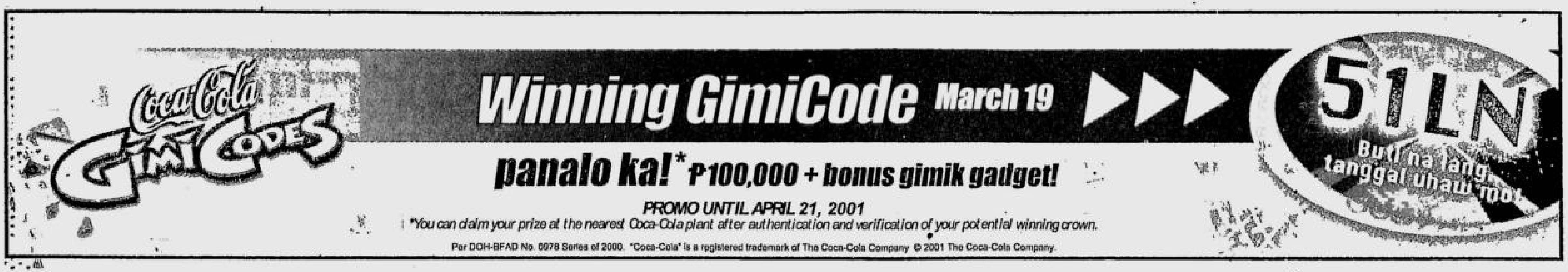
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Partisan hooligans

EDITORIAL

THE SENATORIAL candidates of the People Power Coalition have shrugged off the heckling, harassment and stone throwing by pro-Estrada hooligans in Davao City on Saturday night as one of those things. We must, however, express our concern over the incident. If the incident is repeated in other cities and towns where there are sizable pro-Estrada groups, the electoral campaign might later turn ugly and violent.

Pro-Estrada supporters infiltrated a PPC rally in Davao City on Saturday night. They heckled the PPC senatorial candidates and even Sharon Cuneta, wife of candidate Francis Pangilinan. To her credit, Cuneta didn't lose her composure, and instead hushed the crowd when she sang a hit song.

The PPC senatorial candidates didn't fare as well. The pro-Erap hooligans threw a bag of ice water and a bottle at reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon and missed him by only a meter. They also shouted, "*Drilon, baboy* (Drilon, pig)." The hooligans threw rocks and bags filled with water at the other PPC candidates.

If memory serves us right, this is the first time in Philippine political history that an incident like this has occurred in an electoral campaign. In the past, there might have been mild heckling or booing but never throwing of rocks, water bags or bottles at candidates. Have the supporters of the ousted president and pro-Estrada candidates been infected by the Estrada culture of incivility and violence?

Political supporters may disagree on issues and statements made in the hustings but they should not try to drown out the speeches of candidates or threaten them with harm. Civility and common courtesy demand that one listen to the arguments of a person even if he disagrees with him. Then he can expect that person to give him the same courtesy when he speaks. Everyone enjoys freedom of speech. People may disagree on issues or have different party loyalties, but they don't have to be disagreeable.

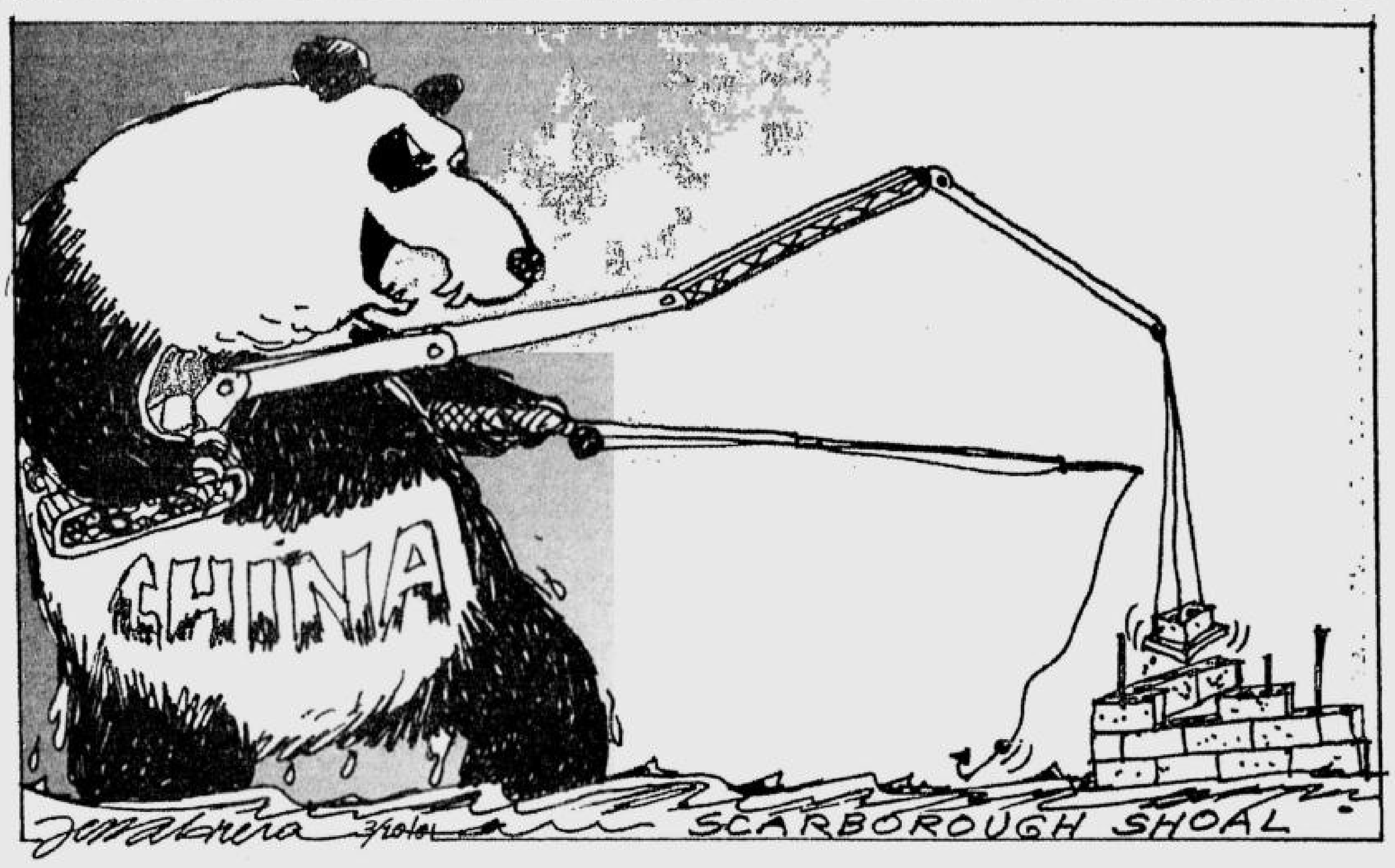
The Davao City incident raises concern over the security and safety of the PPC candidates. If the pro-Estrada hooligans could approach so near the stage that a bottle thrown by one of them missed a candidate by only a meter, is it not possible that a crazy one, at a future rally, might throw a grenade or homemade bomb at the PPC candidates? (A report in another paper indeed said that somebody threw a pillbox but it failed to explode.)

The bombing of the Liberal Party rally on Plaza Miranda in 1971 comes to mind. Several persons were killed and five LP senatorial candidates were wounded in that bombing. The opposition LP candidates went on to score an overwhelming victory in the senatorial election in that year.

In the current campaign, it is the administration senatorial candidates that are in danger of being harmed or killed. The police will have to devise a security arrangement that would screen out pro-Estrada supporters who may want to harm the PPC candidates. We do not want a repeat of the Plaza Miranda bombing, do we?

The throwing of rocks, water bags and bottles could also cause harm to the audience and innocent bystanders. In Davao City, people panicked and stampeded when somebody threw a water bag and a bottle at Drilon. It's a good thing nobody was injured. In the next incident, some people might not be so lucky and might be trampled upon and seriously injured in the stampede.

The deposed president will have to exercise his leadership—if he has any left—and restrain his supporters. The leaders of the pro-Estrada senatorial ticket will also have to caution their supporters against resorting to violent means to express their disapproval of the PPC candidates and their disagreement with their statements. There may be a violent clash of opinions in the current electoral campaign but the disagreement can always be expressed in civil, nonviolent ways.



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AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY are lawyers of the Commission on Elections, the presidential legal advisers, including the secretary of justice and the solicitor general, and members of Congress not studying the laws on registration of voters? Instead of wasting time on an amendatory bill or a Supreme Court suit to allow the special registration of voters, why don't they study existing laws that allow it, as former Comelec chair Ramon H. Felipe Jr. has pointed out? The Comelec is running out of time.

It is obvious that the Comelec does not want a special registration at this time because it is too much work. It would rather disenfranchise voters rather than work. So it is pretending that there is no legal basis for a special registration.

But there is, and it is Section 29 of RA 6646, otherwise known as the Electoral Reform Law of 1987, which is retained in Sec. 28 of RA 8436, otherwise known as the Computerization Law.

The Comelec claims that that provision has been repealed by Sec. 51 of RA 8189, otherwise known as The Voter's Registration Act of 1996. Yet the Comelec used that very same Sec. 29 of RA 6646 in extending the nomination of candidates and extending the filing of certificates of candidacy. Felipe explained it very clearly in a chronology:

- Feb. 2, 1987: 1987 Constitution ratified, which provides in Sec. 1, Art. V: "Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least 18 years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be required in the exercise of suffrage."
- Jan. 5, 1988: RA 6646 signed, otherwise known as the "Electoral Reform Law of 1987," which provides among other things:

"Sec. 29. Designation of Other Dates for Certain Pre-Election acts.—If it should no longer be reasonably possible to observe the period and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the activities so voters shall not be deprived of the right of suffrage."

RA 8436, otherwise known as the "Computerization Law," provides among other things:

"Sec. 28. Designation of Other Dates for Certain Pre-Election Acts.—If it shall no longer be reasonably possible to observe the period and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the activities so voters shall not be deprived of suffrage."

- June 11, 1996: RA 8189 approved, otherwise known as "The Voter's Registration Act of 1996," which provides among other things:

"Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.—As used in this Act:

"a) Registration refers to the act of accomplishing and filing of a sworn application for registration by a qualified voter before the election officer of the city or municipality wherein he resides and including the same in the book of registered voters upon approval by the Election Registration Board...

"Sec. 8. System of Continuing Registration of Voters.—The personal filing of application of registration of voters shall be conducted daily in the office of the Election Officer during regular office hours. No registration shall, however, be conducted during the period starting one hundred twenty (120) days before a regular election and ninety (90) days before a special election."

"Sec. 17. Notice of Hearing of Applications.

"All applications for registration shall be heard and processed on a quarterly basis. For this purpose, the Election Registration Board shall meet and convene on the third Monday of April, July, October and January of every calendar year, or on the next following working day, if designated days fall on a non-working holiday, except in an election year to conform with the one hundred twenty days prohibitive period before election day. Should one day be sufficient for the procession of all accepted applications, the Board shall adjourn from day to day until all the applications shall have been processed.

"Sec. 51. Repealing Clause.—All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly."

- Oct. 20, 2000: Comelec Res. No. 3284, extending the period to hold political connections to nominate official candidates, quoting its above-quoted standby power under Sec. 29, RA 6646, and Sec. 28, RA 8436.
- Nov. 7, 2001: Comelec Res. No. 3306, extending the filing of Certificates of Candidacy from Dec. 15-30, 2000 to Jan. 2-14, 2001 by virtue of its above-quoted standby authority.
- Feb. 8, 2001: Comelec Res. 3584, on which the four remaining Commissioners voted 2-2, with Commissioner Tancangco and Commissioner Lantion voting to grant the letter-petition of Sen. Raul S. Roco for a two-day additional registration of voters on Feb. 17 and 18, 2001, and Commissioner Javier and Sadain voting to deny it.

The discussion of the above laws, resolutions and rules in tomorrow's column.

'Gulang' archipelago

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOME friends told me recently that they were not really surprised that Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile seemed to be doing well in the surveys of voter preferences. While taking taxis, they had occasion to talk to the drivers, and they found out a remarkable thing. The taxi drivers told them they would probably vote for Santiago and Enrile because the two were *matalino*. Santiago and Enrile apparently showed it at the impeachment trial. Of course, the taxi drivers said, the two were probably on the wrong side, but they were brilliant nonetheless.

Well, there is a difference between *matalino* and *magulang*. There is a difference between intelligent and shrewd, wise and cunning, brilliant and calculating. But I don't know that it's just taxi drivers who can't tell the difference. Most of us seem not to be able to. During the last presidential elections, I kept hearing—from Erap's followers in particular, who were not all *masa*—that this country would do better not to vote for a *matalino* president. We already did that with Ferdinand Marcos, and where did that get us? We became the doormat of Asia. Better a fool who could be humored into unleashing progress. It didn't work, of course.

For a simple reason: it had a faulty premise. Marcos wasn't *matalino*, he was *magulang*. His brilliance, like his medals and his books, was largely the product of myth-making, or PR. Or downright lies: he never earned the medals and he never wrote the books. He wasn't intelligent or wise or brilliant, he was shrewd and cunning and calculating. The alternative to him was not to vote for a fool, it was to vote for a truly intelligent man. You have a faulty premise, you'll have a faulty conclusion.

I should think it's not that hard to distinguish the *matalino* from the *magulang*. There are telltale signs. Foremost among them, intelligence does not draw attention to itself, shrewdness does. Intelligence is content to shine by its own light, shrewdness must constantly aim a spotlight upon itself. That is why Santiago constantly brags about her academic credentials and her lawyerly accomplishments.

Some of which, not quite incidentally (shrewdness is deceitful too) are simply not true. Teodoro Kalaw IV, LL.M. 2001, who lists his address as 3322A Holmes Mail Center, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138, wrote to say that Santiago's claims to have graduated from Harvard, which she made in that TV interview where she said she would be bothered by criticism only if it came from her professors at Harvard, are false. "Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago is definitely **not** an alumna of Harvard. Please do not simply take my word for this. I contacted the Harvard University Alumni Records Office by telephone (617-495-2371) to verify if she has alumnus status in any of the faculties there. She does not."

Intelligence is respectful and broadminded, shrewdness is spiteful and intolerant. Intelligence listens and learns, shrewdness preaches and denigrates. In the same letter Kalaw sent me, he commented rather, well, intelligently, that the best proof Santiago did not study at Harvard (what she probably took "was a summer workshop of the Program of Instruction for Lawyers offered by Harvard Law School, which is open to the public, including nonlawyers") is that she betrays the spirit of learning of that school. "A fundamental part of the learning experience here is the respectful discussion and deliberation of all views, no matter how radical and provocative. No Harvard alumnus or student would go to the level of labeling another person an 'anonymous little insect' simply because he or she disagrees with that person."

Intelligence is kind and compassionate, shrewdness is cruel and selfish. Intelligence shares and goes out to other people, shrewdness hoards and worms inside itself. You need not go far to find an example for this. Enrile's face alone should tell you the difference between wise and cunning, brilliant and calculating. Sometimes God sends warning signals and makes people look like what they are. Or maybe what people do makes them look the way they do. Enrile's epitaph will probably read: "Here lies a man who served the two men his countrymen most loathed and threw out of power." Those two, of course, being Marcos and Erap. After Marcos, it's Enrile who will go down in history as the man who most used his legal skills to foment lawlessness, who most used his mental abilities to foment insanity, who most used his learning to bring darkness upon the land.

Lest we forget, it was Enrile who faked an ambush on himself that triggered martial law. His car was peppered with bullets in one of the streets of Wack Wack, an ambush he and his driver "miraculously" escaped unhurt. Marcos promptly railed against the terrorists that would try to rob him of his right-hand man and that same night rolled out a barbed wire across the length of the country.

I've always thought intelligence had an innately moral dimension, a sense of right and wrong. I've never believed in the statement, "*Matalino sana siya, pero ginamit ang katalinuhan sa kasamaan* (He was intelligent, but he used his intelligence for evil purposes)." People who use their brainpower for selfish, devious or harmful ends are not *matalino*, they are *magulang*. You take the sense of right and wrong from intelligence and all you have is a seashell making loud noises to imitate the sounds of the sea. All you have is a two-bit hustler, like the ones you find on the sidewalks of Cubao, except that—as in the case of Santiago and Enrile—the two-bit has become ten-bit. But hustler just the same.

You want intelligence, all you have to do is look at people like Jose Diokno, Lorenzo Tañada and Chino Roces, all of whom had a breadth of vision to accompany a breadth of learning, a breadth of wisdom to accompany the light of knowledge. Unfortunately, all of them are also dead now: intelligence does not always lead to long lives, though Tañada tends to disprove it. But we have enough of the living to perpetuate their memory and legacy. Tañada the younger—Bobby—is one such person, as are others in the People Power Coalition. There are even more intelligent persons outside of politics. Artists in particular abound with them.

Enough to make you wonder why any intelligent person would wish to run for public office. Which seems almost like a contradiction in terms. But that's another story.

Sandigan should decide $635M issue now

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

YESTERDAY I wrote about the challenge posed to Makati's veteran politician, Jojo Binay, and his anointed candidate for the first congressional district by civic leader and social worker Melon Recto-Silverio. A foreign service graduate of the Assumption Convent with strong grassroots experience, who served for nine years as *kagawad* of Barangay Forbes Park and engaged in various business ventures, Melon is being supported by a new movement launched by Makati's elite, called Citizens of Makati for Good Governance, led by prominent women such as Bea Zobel and Mercy Tuason.

* * *

Over the years, Makati citizens even outside the enclaves of the elite which constitutes 10 percent of its electorate have become incensed by mounting reports about the fabulous wealth accumulated by the Binays as well as various unresolved issues in the country's financial center. After Edsa Dos, the Makati elite have become emboldened, it seems, to try to break the hold on power of the former mayor, not in the manner his patron, Joseph Estrada, went, but through the ballot. But pundits feel this is a wrong method, for they acknowledge that the former street parliamentarian-turned-city executive appears to have strengthened his hold on the city through the practice of patronage and ward politics. Thus, they argue, any challenge to him, such as the mayoralty bid of Vice Mayor Edu Manzano, is nothing but "*suntok sa buwan*."

What adds to the despair about the Binays is that they apparently plan to stay in Makati politics forever. For in addition to Jojo's plan to reoccupy the mayoralty which his wife Elenita kept warm for him for one term, their son and heir apparent will run for councilor, while a daughter will run under the PDP-Laban for the party-list system.

* * *

I asked Melon, 53, a mother of three and wife of a small construction company owner, what kind of machinery she has and she replied, "faith and goodwill." She admitted that when she decided to challenge the Binay-Locsin combine, "everyone thought I was crazy, that I'm not 'winnable'" and that hers would be nothing but "political suicide." Melon, whose name is now being accented on the second syllable for easier recall, admitted it's an uphill battle, considering Binay's money and machinery, and Teddy Boy's fame. But she plans to give it her best shot, banking on the money of the rich of Makati and the goodwill of the underprivileged with whom she has been working for years in feeding, scholarship and medical-dental projects. "Melon is our bridge between Barangay Forbes Park and Barangay Singkamas in 'poorer' Makati," says her chief campaigner, Forbes Park *kagawad* Rosanna Fores (she of the looks that Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago didn't like at the Senate impeachment trial).

* * *

Right now, Melon and her friends are organizing in the poorer side of Makati, which contains 90 percent of the city's population. So far, her intensified visits to the different barangays have been smooth and she says she is surprised that Makati is "not Binay country." Well, except for the Tejeros Bliss community where, like President Macapagal during a recent visit to Smokey Mountain, she found doors and windows all closed. Melon is especially targeting Makati's six biggest barangays—Del Pilar, Bangkal, Olympia, Poblacion, Tejeros and Palanan—knowing full well that if one gets them, one carries the first district.

A new face in Makati politics, Melon likes to think she symbolizes the "new politics" and that her platform of service gives the people of that city an alternative to Binay's machinery, goons and gold. But that remains to be seen, for right now pundits bet that Jojo will call the shots in Makati this May.

* * *

Hours after I wrote about the creative scheme proposed by Philip Juico's firm, MapCentral, to the Comelec, called Online Validation of Voters, a number of readers asked how this could ferret out multiple registrants. Juico clarified that MapCentral will be using information from the Comelec's database, which would show the location of the voter's precinct on the map. Unless MapCentral is allowed by the Comelec, it cannot access those portions in this database.

Juico emphasized that MapCentral's contribution to the cleanup of the voters' list is to provide the means for the voters themselves to check their names against the list, long before election day. By making available the website FindPrecinct.com weeks before the election, he says, MapCentral, in a way, empowers and encourages the voters to make their contribution to the Comelec's objective of cleaning up the voters' list. Juico cites as an example a voter who has transferred residence and finds after checking with MapCentral that his name still appears in his old precinct. By using that firm's available website facility, he can inform the Comelec about this change. The same is true if he discovers that his name does not appear in a precinct: he can also inform the Comelec well before the elections.

* * *

Former Solicitor-General Frank Chavez, heartened that finally the government is not treating his allegations of Marcos-Araneta's fabled wealth in Switzerland as a looney tune, has listed a number of things that must be done. Topping the list is a recommendation that Reiner Jacobi be immediately reappointed as PCGG liaison officer for Europe on a "no-recovery, no-pay basis." After all, says Chavez, Jacobi has been supplying significant documents and information to the PCGG for over 10 years without pay, and in fact, has not been reimbursed for expenses.

Chavez also recommends that representations be made with the Swiss Federal Council and the Swiss Federal Supreme Court for the freezing of the Araneta account in Union Bank of Switzerland in Lugano, and with the German government for the transfer of all documentation about the Aranetas' failed attempt to transfer funds. Such a freeze, he argues, has a precedent in April 1986, when without application from the Philippine government, the Swiss Federal Council issued *moto propio* a freeze order on all Marcos accounts in Switzerland. Chavez also urges the Senate blue ribbon committee to immediately re-investigate this issue and summon the involved parties, including Edna Camcam, lawyer Eleazar Reyes and two Americans.

One recommendation that's long overdue is a speedy resolution by the Sandiganbayan of the Marcos motion for reconsideration of its earlier decision awarding to the Philippine government the Marcoses' $635 million held in escrow in a local bank. Chavez correctly argues that this process has to be expedited so that the amount will eventually revert to the national treasury, which needs money badly.

Onstage with the senatorial candidates

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ABANSE! Pinay secretary-general Remmy Rikken was asked by PPC senatorial candidate Winnie Monsod to stand in for her at the Davao PPC rally Saturday, since Winnie had to be in Cebu that day. Though initially reluctant, Remmy couldn't say no to the very persuasive "Mareng Winnie."

News reports have already told us how that rally went, complete with rowdy pro-Erap hecklers, "stone" throwing and a stampede. This then is an account of what it felt to be on stage that evening, from the viewpoint of someone who was at once both a participant and an observer.

"Winnie told me: 'Don't worry. You'll have time to think about what to say. Our agreement is that all the proxies will be speaking last.' But when I went up the stage (at Davao's Rizal Park) with Joy, Winnie's campaign staff, we were told that 'they' had decided the proxies should all speak first, since not all the candidates were onstage yet.

"I thought I had five minutes for my spiel, but even before I finished the first sentence, some guy with a piece of cardboard, with the words 'Time's up' on it, kept shoving it in front of me. He also kept trying to take the mike from me! I don't think I made much sense; I don't even remember what I said exactly. I just hope it didn't hurt Winnie's chances. Later, Liway Chato told me that at the last minute, they'd been told that proxies would each get only two minutes.

"I can't describe the feeling of standing in front of a huge crowd of people standing tightly packed together. (Estimates put the number at over 30,000, the biggest PPC rally so far.) I could sense the crowd's impatience and discomfort. I felt like they were telling me: 'Whoever you are, get your speech over with so we can get on with the show!'

* * *

"I WANTED to leave right after speaking but we were told we had to wait until all the candidates had finished. It was while Frank Drilon was speaking that someone threw a plastic bag, the kind used for ice candy and filled with water, at him. The bag burst when it hit the roof of the stage, spraying everyone with water. It was then that something hard hit the stage. It turned out to be a small block of ice, much larger than a fist. The first thought that entered my mind was: What if that had been a grenade?

"When the ice landed onstage, barely missing Drilon, four burly men quickly surrounded him. So did the bodyguards of Herrera. I was behind the two candidates and I turned to Joy, asking her: Where are our bodyguards? Joy said: 'Ma'am, there's only me.'

"It was at this point that a group of people, numbering about 50, began chanting, '*E-rap ka-mi!*' They then unfurled a huge banner and held it up, covering us. When the police rushed to the pro-Erap group and tried to confiscate the banners, the ralliers fled and people, including mothers carrying their babies in their arms, began to stampede. There was a lot of shouting and screaming and it was only then that I began to get scared. But the pro-Erap group soon left the area in front of the stage and stationed themselves far away, to the side of the stage. All throughout the rally, they would jeer us and chant pro-Erap slogans.

"When the other candidates, especially Ralph Recto and Kiko Pangilinan, showed up, the crowd really began to scream and shout. The stage also filled up quickly with candidates' supporters and media people, especially photographers. And when it was announced that Sharon Cuneta would be coming, the people really went wild! Even the pro-Eraps stopped their heckling! Joy and I took this as a sign that we could leave the stage, and we proceeded to have a late dinner."

* **

THE DAY after the PPC rally, I joined the group of Abanse! Pinay party-list Rep. Pat Sarenas for a public consultation on women's legislation in General Santos City. Before meeting the women of GenSan, however, we stopped by the town of Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur, where a breakfast meeting was scheduled.

We met with Sta. Cruz Mayor Joel Ray Lopez and local women leaders led by Councilor Lolita Legaspi in a seaside conference and training center, actually just a group of native huts by the beach, and feasted on a breakfast of boiled eggs, *paksiw na bangus* and hot dogs. Whetting our appetites, however, was the good news on the local government front. The Sta. Cruz local government is a beneficiary of a local government assistance project of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It was through the CIDA-LGSP, in fact, where Pat, who was a gender advisor for the LGSP in Region XI, first met Lolit. With Mayor Lopez, Lolit has embarked on a number of significant projects, including a housing project for women-headed households.

* * *

FROM Sta. Cruz, it was on to GenSan, where more than 50 women leaders had given up their Sunday afternoon to join the consultation and share their concerns and problems, to provide inputs on future legislation.

After the consultation, we drove in the direction of the fishing port and tuna canneries to Barangay Calumpang, a community which plays host to hundreds of young women working in the tuna canneries and fish processing firms.

We were paying a visit to the Kapatiran Women's Support Center, which provides training and support services not just to the women workers but to the mothers in the community as well. Seated around a low table on mats and foam mattresses, the young workers and mothers spoke of work-related issues as well as of personal problems eking out a living while far away from their families. More on the women's stories in a later column.

What new politics?

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

I DON'T know about you, but when I read that Cynthia Villar was running for her husband's congressional seat and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's son for vice governor of Pampanga, and Raul Roco endorsing Nora Aunor for governor, I figured these people are not listening. Do they really think this is what the young people who protested at Edsa expected? I kinda agree with Philip Camara that if things continue at this pace, in three and a half years we're due for another crisis and Edsa III. The Sanlakas demand that the whole government resign is making even more sense.

The joke these days is that any names sent to Mike Arroyo would be trashed because Mike already sent his list to Ms Macapagal as witness a certain Genuino and a certain Manda, a couple of unknowns rumored to be friends of the First Gentleman. Pity. But this is a country where Benny Tan, a man of probity, gets indicted and Dante Tan of BW Resources notoriety engineers deals and is likely to get away scot free.

As for that insufferable buffoon with the morals of a chimpanzee, while he is accused of acting as though government existed to be plundered, (unfortunately any number of officials apparently feel the same way) he can still draw the crowds and their sympathy like a vanquished hero. Despite all the unsavory stories and with his old pals tripping over each other in their haste to give evidence against him in exchange for immunity, a large percentage of the people still don't seem to understand that this was no way to run a country. Their excuse appears to be, when was it ever run differently? Perhaps they made no contribution to the Social Security System or Government Service Insurance System to complain about and they well may have lost hope that any elected official will make a difference in their lives.

Judging by some of the candidates, they may be right. What this says about our collective values is truly distressing. The whole country is displaying symptoms of the battered wife syndrome and begging to be slapped around again.

Such cynicism, such contempt to run for senator (or any elected office for that matter) on the basis of your ability to entertain the public. I used to think that being elected senator was an honor not easily gained, bestowed by a grateful nation on statesmen like Recto, Diokno and Tañada not on someone who used to dribble a ball for a living or clown on television. I cannot imagine any of those sterling men who once presided over the Senate dancing the cha-cha or singing to entertain the crowd who must find them truly amusing. Is this what governance is about?

In case this is thought to be elitist, I seriously suggest that the records of entertainers as public servants be examined so that the public (if it cares at all at this point) can see what their taxes are paying for these days.

And don't for a moment believe their mugs don't cost us anything. There's that office staff (remember how one senator included her maid on the payroll?) and the pork barrel and those yearly trips in aid of legislation (somebody else should run a survey and see what legislation we've gotten out of them) where the embassy staff has to act as their *alalays*?

There must be a more cynical set of politicians in the world, but so far I haven't met them. Tessie Aquino-Oreta can inflict her daughter on us and Mike Defensor his sister and of course the Makati crowd obviously can tolerate Jejomar Binay or at least they can live with him, so why shouldn't the Binays and the Atienzas and the Asistios and Abaloses stay on forever more? Do we deserve anything better?

In case the administration hasn't heard, people are saying this is Ramos Part II, seeing as there are so many recycled faces from that administration. Again that may not be a bad idea, except that it brings back memories of the PEA-Amari deal and Expo 2000 and the fact that there should be an accounting for the P7.8 billion that was supposed to go to the military from the sale of Fort Bonifacio. Whatever happened to that money doesn't appear to bother the Senate, the House, the Office of the Ombudsman and sundry departments of government that should look into these matters.

No doubt this is an imperfect world; change will come slowly (let us pray). What other platitudes have you heard? Granted this is all true, John Silva has a point there. If the present dispensation cannot dissuade its candidates like Manuel Villar and Francis Pangilinan from breaking Comelec rules by plastering their faces all over an already filthy city, what hope is there that it can or will discipline them over graver matters?

You understand a lot of us, unlike many of the young who went to Edsa this time, have seen and heard this all before, in fact as recently as 1986. Remember that the Presidential Commission on Good Government is still there, a perennial thorn in our collective side, incapable apparently of proving that anything was ill-gotten but happily selling off companies and works of art without even the shadow of an accounting to the public. The unlamented (as far as I'm concerned anyway) Estrada used to say "weather, weather *lang yan*" and every dog has his day, but the familiar faces and actuations evoke a sickening sense of déjà vu and being shafted all over again.

A little anxiety

YOUNGBLOOD

Amy Esteban

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I CAME to Tokyo last September as a Rotary International ambassadorial scholar. For 10 months, I will be studying Japanese (and any other course I want to take) and attending some activities of my host Rotary Club. I would say that I'm enjoying my stay; in fact, I have already gained some weight. I appreciate the activities being initiated by the university for foreign students and the hospitality of my hosts. My academic advisor and his family, my Rotarian counselor and his wife, the Christian church inside the campus, and the friends I meet along the way—all of them makes life easier. Everything seems well, except for some "little anxiety" about my country.

Defense

I first notice this little anxiety when one of the persons who fetched me at the airport asked with a smile, "Your president is an actor, right?" There was something about his smile that I didn't like, so I quickly explained that after working as an actor, Joseph Estrada was elected as a town mayor, a senator and then vice president before finally getting the highest position in the land. Actually, I never voted for (former) President Estrada but I found myself taking his side that very moment.

The following morning, I found myself in a similar defensive mood when a new Japanese friend remarked, "I heard Manila is a dangerous city." Thinking about the repercussions that kind of thinking would have on the tourism industry and investments in the Philippines, I explained to her that there were criminals anywhere. Manila was no different from New York or Tokyo. Some places were safe, others were not.

Shame

My understanding and patience turned to shame almost as soon as I began attending classes. One day, we were discussing the high rent of apartments in Tokyo when the professor said, "Compared to other foreigners, it's harder for a Filipino or a Thai to find an apartment." A girl from Thailand immediately asked why. Realizing that there were two Thai women and two Filipinas in his class, the professor declined to elaborate, to the disappointment of other foreign students. Then I remembered a news article I read earlier about the proliferation of Thai and Filipino prostitutes in Japan.

A similar incident happened in my other class. The lecture was about the different industries in Japan. Toward the end, the professor said other industries were also flourishing in his country and the Japanese government would do well to look into them. The example she gave was the sex industry which was filled mainly by prostitutes coming from the Philippines. I was the only Filipino student in that class and I could feel that the eyes of all my classmates were on me after they heard those words.

The same course required us to keep up-to-date on current events affecting international politics and the economy. So I made it a point to read The Japan Times every day. Normally, I only looked at three sections: the front page, the Asia-Pacific news and the foreign exchange rates. For the duration of autumn term, only two kinds of news were coming out of the Philippines: the activities of the Abu Sayyaf rebels in Mindanao and the plunge in the value of the peso. Poor Philippines!

Early this year when I celebrated my 27th birthday, two Japanese friends kindly took me on a tour of Chiba, a prefecture near Tokyo. After lunch, our first stop was the National Museum of Japanese History. It was very informative and impressive, but the last gallery we visited gave me a shock. It featured a mural of what looked like a bar or a nightclub. Hanging from a window was a sign that read: "Ultra Baby Service." Beside the door was a woman who looked like a Filipina, wearing a dress with butterfly sleeves similar to those that Imelda Marcos is fond of wearing.

What did that mural say about Japanese history? And that picture of the woman, was it really meant to depict a Filipina? Curious though I was, I couldn't summon the courage to ask those questions from my Japanese friends.

Insult

One time I received a letter from a woman in Hiroshima who claimed to own an English language institute. She told me she saw the résumé which I had posted on a job-hiring website. (I just tried it even though I was not really serious about getting a job.) The woman sounded very friendly in her letters, talking about many nice things about the institute, the students and the incentives they offered to English teachers. She was obviously trying very hard to convince me to teach in her institute once I finished my scholarship.

Although I wasn't really interested in taking up her offer, we continued our exchange of mail. Then she requested me to send a more detailed résumé. I did, and her letter suddenly became short and businesslike. She told me she thought I was white and implied that she was withdrawing her offer. I never heard from her again.

I shared this story with a Filipina friend and she confided that she had also received a cold remark from a prospective employer after telling him over the phone that she was a Filipina. Was this a case of racism?

Here's another story. I was introduced by a friend to an administrator of an English language school. The person told me to contact her if I wanted to teach part-time. I asked how much was the hourly rate and she said, "The school pays 6,000 yen per hour to whites, but since you're a non-native speaker, you'll get 2,000 per hour."

Gee! My English might not be as good as the whites', but I would do the same job and get only a third of what the whites were getting? This wasn't just unfair. It was insulting. I never bothered to call her again.

These experiences have made me become conscious of my nationality for the first time in my life. I have come to believe that being a Filipino works to my disadvantage, at least here in Japan. So in casual getting-to-know-each-other conversations, I make it a point to explain that I am a *ryuugakusei*, a foreign student, after telling people where I come from. That way, I can stop some men from giggling or quickly asking if they could take me out. Besides, I feel a sense of pride whenever I see people's reaction when they learn which university I attend. To the Japanese, the name of school determines one's future. And I am attending one of the best schools in Japan which caters to the elite.

Bad strategy

But is it good to boast of something that I got out of some people's generosity? They don't admire me as a Filipino. They admire me for going to a good Japanese university. This strategy misses the point. What I need is something that would stop people from looking down on me, on Filipinos and the Philippines in general. But what?

The general perception about the Philippines is largely influenced by what people see on TV and read in the papers or the Internet. Since I arrived in Tokyo, there have been very few nice things written about the Philippines—just the kidnappings, the war in Mindanao, the economic downturn, the corruption, immorality and endless bickering in government. And of course lately, there was the dramatic change in government through People Power II.

Didn't people congratulate me for that? Did those acquaintances who never spoke with me before about my country show their admiration for what the Filipino people have done?

The Philippines hogged the headlines again. This time, the stories were filled with optimism. The people's triumph was applauded, economic recovery was seen, peace was predicted and confidence in the new administration was expressed. The Filipinos did it again! Didn't that call for congratulations?

In a land where obedience to authority, strict compliance with rules and respect for seniority are given the highest value, overthrowing a government through a popular movement is inconceivable. It's going to earn fewer points as throwing oneself in front of train to express dissatisfaction with the government.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

Several ways to decongest Metro Manila

LETTERS

I UNDERSTAND that MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos is receptive to suggestions that will redound to the benefit of the majority of our people. In this light, I am offering the following suggestions to ease the chaotic traffic situation in Metro Manila:

(1) Adopt staggered office hours. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority should strive to divide Metro Manila into two working zones or shifts. For example, those working in Salcedo Village in Makati should take the first shift, whose office hours will be from 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. (with 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. as lunch break) while those in Legaspi Village, Makati should work from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (with 1:30-2:30 p.m. as lunch break). This scheme should be replicated all over Metro Manila for effective results. I sincerely believe the two-hour difference will prevent employees and other workers from reporting to office and going home *sabay-sabay.*

(2) Persuade big institutions of learning to establish some of their colleges in nearby provinces like Bulacan, the eastern part of Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Batangas. This will decongest Metro Manila of thousands and thousands of students and their vehicles. This will be welcome news to parents who can make *tipid* in terms of board and lodging, *baon*, fare, etc. On top of this, parents can closely and effectively supervise the studies of their children and in the process, free them from the clutches of drugs and bad *barkada*. If banks can establish branches in the provincial areas, why can't the big schools?

(3) High school and college students from exclusive schools like Ateneo, La Salle, Miriam, Assumption, etc. should be brought to their schools (and sent home) in school buses. This will decongest Metro Manila of thousands and thousands of cars being used by these rich students. Here's how: one school bus can accommodate about 50 students, which means 50 cars will be out of the streets. So if we are talking of about 1,000 school buses from these exclusive schools, then we can say that about 50,000 cars will be "demobilized" so to speak.

(4) There are many streets in Metro Manila with very wide center islands. These islands should be trimmed or better still removed in order to accommodate more vehicles. Some examples are Quirino Avenue in Pandacan, Buendia Avenue near Roxas Boulevard, Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City (whose center island is wider than the street itself) and many more streets (just ask the people from the Department of Public Works and Highways).—**PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City**

Judgment day for Erap's allies

THE MEDIA played a vital role in the making of Edsa 2001, which ousted the discredited Estrada administration. Without them, the defense panel could have succeeded in making a mockery of the impeachment proceedings and making a saint out of a plunderer.

Too bad our irresponsible voters installed an inept president instead of an ideal role model. Also elected to the legislature were partisan sycophants who would stop at nothing to defend him at the expense of the nation.

How I wished Rene Saguisag had succeeded in proving that the existing administration is merely revolutionary so that Estrada and his cohorts could be arrested and jailed instantaneously instead of them running loose and posing a threat to national stability.

In Japan, public officials are so sensitive that they commit hara-kiri once they are found to have engaged in corruption or any embarrassing misdeed. In China, thieving officials are executed outright.

It is only in the Philippines where criminals are allowed to resist punishment, campaign for a political comeback and challenge Supreme Court decisions. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr, therefore, makes sense when he calls for the banishment of Estrada.

It was Estrada's own lawyers and Senate allies who accelerated his downfall and actually did him in. Now Erap is campaigning for them.

Bukod sa defense panel, *kasama ring nag-abogado para kay Erap sina* Senator-Judges Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, John Osmeña, Nikki Coseteng, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Ramon Revilla, Tito Sotto *at iba pa. Gumuho ang pag-asa ng buong bansa dahil sa kanilang pag-sasabwatan upang pagtakpan si Estrada at ipagkanulo ang interes ng bayan.*

Ngayon ay sila ang hahatulan ng bayan sa halalan. Hinding-hindi malilimutan ng tao ang ginawa nilang pagtataksil sa bayan na naging dahilan ng muling pag-aalsa sa Edsa. *Wala na sanang magpauto.* For once let us be patriotic and responsible.—**JOE MARQUEZ, Daangbatang, Moonwalk, Parañaque City**

Ads that are unfair to women

I WOULD like to express my objection to the way a woman is objectified in a full-page ad that appeared in the INQUIRER last March 1. I like music, especially R&B and jazz, and I believe a woman's body is one of our Creator's most beautiful creations. But I am offended by the ad, where the woman was shown as just a body, without legs or a head. She was not a person anymore. There was just the word "soft" on the shadowed portion where the breast should be, "favorites" where the ribs should be, and "all the time" where the ovaries would be.

Women are persons, not dishes or objects. Why could not the advertisers be more creative?

I would also like to suggest to the creators of the Lucky Me ad on TV that they modify their message. Can they be more gender-sensitive on the values they transmit with their product? Women are burdened with keeping a job, being a mother and doing community work. Why couldn't the tired husband cook the Lucky Me *pancit canton* and surprise mommy who is also a working mother who had a hard day (traffic, PUJ engine trouble and rain)? I love the taste of Lucky Me, but the message it brings is not helping improve the way we see the roles of women and men in society.

As a token of appreciation for the contribution of women to society, advertisers should review not just the value of their product to the women's sector, but also its impact, particularly the moral values it promotes and how it addresses the inequality of women and men.—**ATHENA B. BANZA, federation coordinator, Panaghiusa sa Lalawigan Maguuma sa Bukidnon, Inicial corner Murillo Streets, Malaybalay City**

Creating conflict where none exists

IT was grossly unfair of columnist Rina Jimenez-David ("Mel's mandate," PDI, 3/2/01) to suppose that Housing Secretary Michael Defensor threatened to resign his chairmanship of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council just because President Macapagal had given newly appointed National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. Chief Mel Alonzo the mandate "to try to turn around the moribund NHMFC." Under David's simplistic logic, since Defensor decided to stay as housing chief, Alonzo's mandate to clear up the mess at the NHMFC had been revoked or compromised.

The way things have developed during the last few days, any casual observer can easily conclude that Defensor's supposed reasons for initially deciding to leave the HUDCC were not directed at Alonzo or Alonzo's record as a "dedicated civil servant who is guilty only of serving the government well."

I am all for transparency in public service, but it is deplorable to conjure up non-existent ill intentions in its name.

I am also sure Alonzo and Defensor could very well work in tandem to clear up any mess in the housing sector. Let us not create personal conflicts where there are none.—**LIZA M. RODRIGUEZ, 4605 Casino St., Palanan, Makati City**

E-pass another making-money endeavor

THIS is a reaction to the letter of Olive F. Martinez, marketing manager of Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. last March 1, 2001.

Maybe in their own assessment the e-pass lane scheme is working because they found a new business endeavor, selling the e-tags, in addition to robbing the motorists through their expensive toll fees.

I am 100 percent sure that Martinez does not live in the south for she doesn't know the real situation on the SLEX before, today and tomorrow. For her information, prior to the implementation of the e-pass, the long line of vehicles without e-tags were non-existent, especially on the Alabang flyover. Because it is a new business for them to sell e-tags, those who have none are made to suffer the inconvenience of the new system. And this situation is likewise happening at the Calamba tollgate. In other words, those who cannot afford to buy the e-tags at P1,600 and paying the maintenance fee are confined forever to the congested lanes for non e-pass customers.

In 1997 when they started constructing the Skyway, they made us to believe that travel on the SLEX will be faster and more convenient. They asked for our understanding and cooperation.

After the completion of the Skyway, we were given a few days to use the Skyway for free but as soon as the collection began, hell started again. Why? Because only a few vehicles are using the Skyway because the toll is high. Second, the congestion at the tollgate, whether one uses the e-pass or not, is practically the same as that on the grade level. Third, after enjoying your smooth trafficless ride from the tollgate to Bicutan, it becomes hellish once again as the three lanes become one. In other words, the P55 Skyway fee is good only for few kilometers and you have to pay toll again when you exit at another tollgate. Isn't that clear highway robbery.

Now they're thinking of another toll hike? We can only say: No to another toll hike!—**BONG Q. TAMAYAO, P4, B18, L36 Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna**

Mittelschmerz and fertility necklaces

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"*UY*, when did you join the Opus Dei?" someone asked me during the Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health last month.

I was taken aback and asked what she meant. She smiled and said, "Joke only, but people are asking why you're endorsing NFP and why HAIN's sharing a booth with a group doing NFP?"

I actually got similar questions from several people at that conference and considering that was a meeting about family planning, it disturbed me because it does reflect people's misconceptions about NFP, or natural family planning.

Let me first explain the acronyms. HAIN is the health NGO I work with, and yes the Institute for Reproductive Health (sorry, that calls for another acronym, IRH), had been kind enough to share their exhibition booth with us. The IRH is an agency working on NFP or natural family planning. They are attached to the medical school at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

I'm actually quite proud of this linkage, not just with the IRH but with the people who have devoted almost their entire lives to the promotion of NFP. That includes Mitos Rivera, who is the current country coordinator for the IRH and who has, through the years, guest lectured in my university classes and NGO training workshops.

It's giving Opus Dei undue credit when NFP is identified with them. Not that I would mind if Opus Dei did play a more active role in promoting NFP; unfortunately, they and other local stalwarts of the Roman Catholic Church seem to spend more time condemning "artificial" contraception (if not family planning itself) than promoting alternatives such as NFP.

Last year the IRH commissioned HAIN to review the policy environment for NFP, the results of which I presented at the conference. We found in the research that many Catholic priests and lay leaders were themselves unfamiliar with the facts about family planning methods, "natural" or "artificial."

One column is not enough to discuss NFP methods, but let me summarize the essentials. Many people erroneously equate NFP with rhythm. NFP involves a daily monitoring of changes during a woman's menstrual cycle to determine her fertile and infertile days. This includes monitoring body temperature at a fixed time each morning for a slight "spike" or increase and examining cervical discharge for a change in consistency. For some couples, NFP is used to prevent births while others use it to achieve a pregnancy.

NFP is safe and low-cost. All you need are your charts, a pen and a thermometer. Used correctly, NFP can be effective. It fails mainly because we don't have the social conditions to allow that correct usage. We have men who refuse to cooperate during a woman's fertile period, either through abstinence if you want to be faithful to Catholic teachings, or through the use of condoms as would be allowed by all other religions.

Women need time each morning to do their charting but this is not always possible, given our women's triple burdens of being mothers and wives while working outside the home, all with little support from their male partners.

NFP requires intensive motivation, training and follow-up but government has not given enough money to sustain such efforts. Medical and nursing schools give little attention, if any, to NFP, so in our research last year almost all the doctors we interviewed were opposed to NFP because they still equated this with rhythm, which they consider ineffective. Finally, there's the Catholic Church which, for all the talk about approving of NFP, has done far too little to support such programs.

The core of NFP is fertility awareness, but there are many social obstacles that hinder the development of that awareness. Conservatives continue to oppose sex education in schools or through mass media, so we have more misconceptions floating around than knowledge about important medical facts. I'm wondering, for example, how many readers know what the mittelschmerz is. That's a medical term derived from the German words for "middle" and "pain." About one out of every five women experiences this mittelschmerz—abdominal pain of varying intensity—when they ovulate. Some women find this distressing but it's not really a medical problem; in fact, some doctors will even explain this is a "gift" because if you have it, you're one of the few who can, more or less, tell when you're fertile.

How many women even dare to look at their vaginal discharge? How many women are aware of the "wet" and "dry" feelings they have as their menstrual cycle unfolds, the wetness and dryness being additional indicators of fertility. How many women can distinguish a "wet" feeling that comes from their own bodies from another kind of "wet" feeling that comes as a result of intercourse? How many men are aware of all these changes in their partners?

Against very tough odds, IRH and HAIN are trying to help both men and women understand fertility and reproduction in the context of our daily lives. At the reproductive health conference, IRH's medical researchers presented us with an update on their search for simplified methods for women with fairly regular and consistent menstrual cycles, i.e., between 26 and 32 days. For example, the IRH is testing a "fertility necklace" that helps women with regular cycles to determine when they are ovulating. In a year or two, the IRH should have enough data that can be used to endorse a simplified NFP.

When you think about it, NFP should be required as an introductory module for any kind training in family planning or, for that matter, any workshop on gender and sexuality. After all, NFP is as much about anatomy and physiology as it is about relationships, communication, autonomy and responsible choices.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.org

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Cebu
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Monday, March 26, at 7:00 pm
Tuesday, March 27, at 12:00 noon
Tuesday, March 27, at 7:00pm
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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Russia arming Iran; US alarmed

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Iran's latest arms deal with Russia, underpinned by a surge in its oil revenue, has troubling implications for its neighbors, almost all of whom are embroiled in quarrels with Tehran that could turn violent.

Moscow and Tehran insist the deal is for defensive purposes only, but the United States, itself a big weapons supplier to the region, has expressed alarm.

News of the latest agreement came during a four-day visit by Iranian President Mohammad Khatami last week. Russia agreed to supply $7-billion worth of weapons over the next few years and to complete Iran's only nuclear reactor by 2003.

Iran covets Russia's missile technology and its Su-25 warplanes that could narrow the gap with its US-supplied Gulf Arab neighbors. In a single deal last year, the tiny United Arab Emirates placed a $6.4-billion deal with the United States for 80 F-16 fighter planes.

A Russian official visiting Washington last week didn't mention warplanes when asked about the Iran arms deal. "All defensive," insisted Sergei Ivanov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's national security adviser. "Personnel carriers, tanks, anti-air missiles, which are very legitimate."

But Russia already has helped Iran tip the regional naval balance by selling it three Kilo-class submarines, the only subs owned by a Gulf country, and between 1989 and 1999 it supplied a reported $5-billion worth of weapons to Iran, the bulk of Tehran's recent purchases.

Iran's military ambitions are not new. They can now be realized, however, because of a windfall from oil revenues.

Russia makes no secret of its need for big customers to prop up its flagging defense industries. By engaging with Iran, a major and influential player in the region, Moscow also retains powerful influence in the Gulf and beyond.

But weapons sales to Iran at this time raise concern because the Islamic Republic is more unstable now than at any time since it rose out of the 1979 revolution.

Religious hardliners who still believe in holy war and exporting the revolution are waging a power struggle with pro-Khatami reformists.

Despite a thaw with Iraq, neither country can forget their devastating 1980-88 war.

Across the Gulf, Iran is locked in a territorial dispute with the Emirates.

Ties with Turkey are strained over Tehran's support for rebel Kurds and Ankara's military ties with Israel, Iran's arch foe.

In 1998, Iran came close to war with Afghanistan's Taliban rulers following the killing of seven Iranian diplomats and an Iranian journalist by renegade Taliban troops.

And then there's the Mideast conflict. Iran's defense minister, Ali Shamkhani, said in December that his country would retaliate in an "astounding and unexpected" way if Israel attacked Syria or Lebanon. *AP*

IRANIAN Corps Guards Islamic Revolution forces display a Shahab 3 missile during a ceremony on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the outset of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) at Azadi Sq. in Tehran in this Sept. 21, 2000 file photo. AP

Iran courts clamp down on opposition party, papers

TEHRAN—Iran's conservative-run courts closed down the main opposition party on Sunday, less than three months before voters go to the polls for one of the most important elections in the nation's history.

They also banned four more publications close to the reform movement of embattled President Mohammad Khatami, whose silence over whether he will run for office has sparked widespread speculation about the June 8 vote.

Iran's revolutionary tribunal said the Iran Freedom Movement, which has been tolerated despite an official ban in place since 1988, was now in effect closed down because members wanted to overthrow the clerical regime.

"All activities of the so-called Iran freedom movement are forbidden and illegal," the court said in a statement cited by state radio Sunday, a week after around 20 people with links to the group were arrested.

It said other groups connected to the nationalist religious opposition were also outlawed, and that those jailed last Sunday could be charged with "collaborating with counter-revolutionary and terrorist groups."

The IFM, which played a key role in the 1979 revolution but was banned on direct orders of the Islamic republic's founder, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, had still held press conferences and presented candidates in some elections.

The court said the IFM and other internal opposition groups had been "conspiring and sowing discord among the leadership of the regime," echoing a warning by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, on Friday. *AFP*

Sharon orders new security contacts with Palestinians

ABOARD SHARON'S PLANE—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday he had ordered new security contacts with the Palestinians in a bid to reduce violence, after an initial meeting the evening before.

"I have ordered the resumption of security discussions with the Palestinians aimed at operations to reduce the violence where possible," Sharon told reporters as he flew to the United States for a four-day visit.

Sharon stressed that the meetings would not include any "political figures" and would involve "only security officials from the two sides."

He said Israel's deputy Army chief of staff, General Moshe Yaalom, will participate in talks with the Palestinian security chiefs for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jibril Rajoub and Mohammed Dahlan respectively, as well as Palestinian police chief Haj Ismail.

Sharon also confirmed that Avi Dichter, head of Israel's internal security service Shin Beth, had met with Palestinian security officials Saturday night.

The prime minister's spokesperson Raanan Gissin earlier said Dichter met with Palestinian intelligence chief Amin Al-Hindi, in the first security meeting since Sharon took office earlier this month.

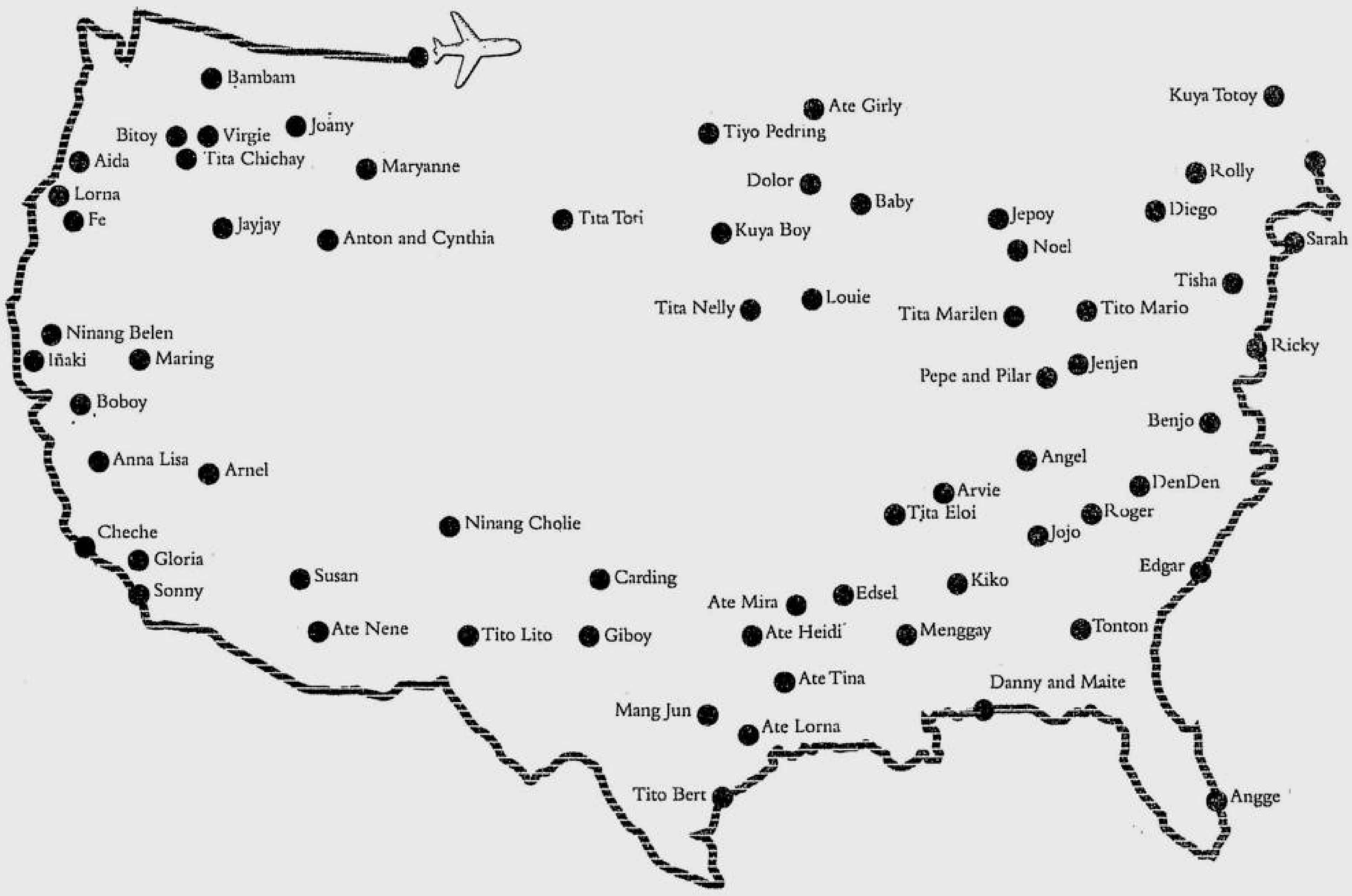
Sharon said the meetings were part of efforts by the two sides "to try to cooperate and work together," but expressed caution about prospects for success.

"We do not know what the result will be or whether the relative calm in the situation these past days is the result of these acts, which we initiated," Sharon said.

The hardline prime minister has long insisted that a resumption of security meetings were a precondition to renewed peace talks with the Palestinians and would concentrate on reducing violence, not reaching a political settlement.

Sharon on Saturday sent a letter to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warning him that an easing of the crippling blockade on the territories would be canceled if the Palestinians did not put an end to violence and resume security cooperation.

Sharon repeated his stance that he wanted to hold peace talks with Palestinians but could not "as long as there are murders and attacks." *AFP*



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NZ premier describes party foes as scumbags

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Prime Minister Helen Clark has blasted the opposition as "sleazeballs" and "scumbags" for challenging the awarding of a research grant to her husband to study reforms she made as health minister.

The opposition charged Sunday that Clark's husband, public health specialist Prof. Peter Davis, could not carry out impartially research into changes in the public health system.

The grant was awarded to Davis to look at how changes in the public hospital sector and nursing between 1988 and 1999 affected the health of the nation. Clark as health minister from 1988 to 1990 began the reforms, which were later reversed by nine years of conservative government, which opted for a competitive health system.

Opposition National Party legislator Wyatt Creech told the Health Research Council, which awarded the grant, that it was inappropriate for Davis to be doing the research. The research grant is worth $323,000.

"This raises a conflict of interest as it would be hard for him to conclude the reforms instituted by his wife were bad," or the National's were good, he said.

Clark responded angrily, saying Creech's comments were ridiculous.

"How could there possibly be a conflict of interest—it's not me who's applying for the grants," she said.

"Wyatt Creech, Bill English (opposition finance spokesperson) and whatever other scumbag from the National Party has been minister of health is well aware of the strength of my husband's professional reputation," she said.

Clark said the attack on her husband was "scumbag behavior from sleazeballs."

"It is utterly reprehensible. The Health Research Council has thorough procedures for contestable funding. It has nothing to do with me or my opinions," she said. *AP*

A MACEDONIAN girl claps during a rally in the capital Skopje March 18, 2001. The rally demanded that the government took tougher measures against ethnic Albanian guerrillas who fought Macedonian security forces for five straight days in the mountains surrounding the town of Tetovo, or resign. REUTERS

Macedonia on war footing against rebels

TETOVO, Macedonia—Macedonia went on a war footing Sunday, mobilizing reserve troops and using tanks and heavy artillery against a growing ethnic Albanian insurrection near the border with Kosovo.

Amid sharply rising tensions, Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski accused the United States and Germany, whose troops guard the Kosovo-Macedonia border, of refusing to arrest extremist leaders in Kosovo.

Macedonian special police continued to pound rebel-held hilltops on the edge of the northwestern town of Tetovo with mortar fire for a fifth day as Army tanks and heavy artillery were spotted by Nato troops in Kosovo blasting guerrillas in the mountain on the border.

Macedonian defense ministry spokesperson Georgi Trendafilov said reserves would be told to report for duty.

Officials say the Macedonian Army has an estimated 15,000-20,000 ground troops, although according defense experts it can only actually muster around 10,000 troops. But a general mobilization could swell its ranks to 120,000.

Macedonia has so far preferred not to use the Army, many of whose troops are themselves ethnic Albanians, defense sources say, while the special police has a higher percentage of Slav Macedonians.

The Army decision came just after 10,000 people gathered in central Skopje demanding that tougher measures be taken to combat the spreading insurrection.

Massing in front of the parliament, the demonstrators, including many from Tetovo, shouted that the government should take "urgent action against the terrorists so we can go home."

At least 2,000 people have fled Tetovo since the fighting began.

In Wednesday the rebels of the self-proclaimed National Liberation Army broke out of mountain bases near the Kosovo border and attacked Tetovo, a major town in the northwest with a mainly Albanian population.

The protest followed a gathering outside the parliament late Saturday, when 3,000 mostly Slav residents of Tetovo whistled at President Boris Trajkovski who urged them to stay calm. In response, many chanted: "Give us weapons."

The parliament pledged "urgent and effective measures" to counter the rebels.

And Georgievski, whose government imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in Tetovo, accused the United States and Germany of accelerating the crisis by failing to act against rebel leaders directing operations from UN-run Kosovo, whose borders are guarded by Nato-led peacekeepers.

"You can't persuade anyone in Macedonia today that the government of the United States and Germany do not know who the terrorist leaders are and what they want, they could stop them acting," he said.

"We are faced with an attempt by Western democracies to promote the emergence of new Talibans," he said, referring to the Islamic fundamentalist movement that controls 90 percent of Afghanistan.

KFOR commander General Carlo Cabigiosu warned the rebels his troops would retaliate if they came under fire.

He said the Macedonian government had already given permission for KFOR troops to retaliate inside Macedonia, where its logistical back-up troops have already been caught in crossfire.

"I warn the Albanian extremist groups that KFOR will not tolerate any attacks against KFOR soldiers in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia," he said. *AFP*

Long battle to eradicate foot-and-mouth seen

LONDON—As Britain's tally of foot-and-mouth outbreaks raced beyond the symbolic 300 mark a month after the virus first appeared, the government Sunday acknowledged that a long battle still lies ahead.

"I think it is going to take a long time" to eradicate the disease, said the government's chief veterinary officer Jim Scudamore, as the number of confirmed cases in the country reached a total of 323.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown said at a joint media conference with Scudamore that it could take "several months."

The government's stark warning came as Scotland started culling apparently healthy sheep in its northern Highlands region—so far free of the disease—as a preventive measure.

Scudamore admitted that the current crisis was more severe than the last devastating epidemic of foot-and-mouth in Britain in 1967: "Just three weeks into this outbreak we are already looking at 278,000 animals" either having been or about to be killed.

He said that in the six months during which the 1967 outbreak lasted, only 400,000 animals were affected—"which shows the severity of this crisis."

The Scottish executive, which has a degree of autonomy from London, ordered 1,900 sheep from four farms in the Highlands to be slaughtered.

The sheep are suspect because they were in contact with an infected livestock market in Cumbria, a region in northwest England that borders Scotland and is one of the worst hit by the outbreak.

On Saturday, the government agreed to postpone by several days the slaughter of 300,000 apparently healthy sheep and pigs in the face of stiff opposition from farmers.

Scudamore sought to defend the slaughter of animals found within three kilometers of infected sites in Cumbria and the neighboring Scottish counties of Dumfries and Galloway.

"There is a heavy risk of infection" in these regions and a lot of sheep were undoubtedly "potentially infected," even if they showed no signs of the disease, he said.

Brown backed Scudamore's advocacy of the controversial culling policy, saying "people may refer to these as healthy animals but we don't know that they are healthy."

"Controlling a disease like this in a modern society requires consent," he said, urging reluctant farmers to accept the measures.

Joe Brownlie, professor at the Royal Veterinary College, told the Sunday Telegraph: "We understand much more about the virus today than we did in 1967. But the conclusion is the same as it was then: that you have to kill the animals, including many healthy ones, to eradicate the disease." *AFP*

Opec decision prompts call for US energy independence

WASHINGTON—Reacting to Opec's decision to cut oil output, a top administration official on Sunday stressed the need for a comprehensive national energy policy to curb US dependence on imported oil.

"We have a major energy crisis," chief presidential economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey, told the NBC television network.

But he noted that last year's gasoline price hikes had been sparked not only by high oil prices, exceeding $35 a barrel, but also by a shortage of crude refining capacity in the United States.

"We need more refineries, we need more power plants, we need more natural gas pipelines," Lindsey said.

The United States is the world's largest consumer of oil, importing three-quarters of the 19.4 million barrels it guzzles up per day.

Don Nickles, a top US Republican senator from Oklahoma, meanwhile predicted Sunday that a comprehensive national energy policy would be adopted this year.

"I expect by the end of the year we will be successful in passing a broad-based energy package that will help us on energy production . . . will help us reduce our dependency on Opec," he noted.

Saturday, US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham described as "disappointing" the decision by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to cut oil output by one million barrels a day.

On Monday, Abraham is scheduled to deliver a major policy address before the US Chamber of Commerce, which is expected to focus on the US energy situation.

In late January, Bush placed Vice President Richard Cheney in charge of a Cabinet-level panel to develop a policy that would "promote dependable, affordable, and environmentally sound" production and distribution of energy for the future. *AFP*

13 Vietnamese officials face trial for dipping into anti-poverty funds

HANOI—Thirteen government and company officials will be tried on charges of bribery and embezzlement of money from anti-poverty programs for ethnic minorities in northern Vietnam, a court official said yesterday.

The trial is expected to start April 9 and last about 10 days, the official said.

Police are still investigating statements by two key defendants that they bribed more than 100 local and central government officials to win construction contracts in northern Lai Chau province, 500 km north of Hanoi, he said.

The contracts were awarded by the government's Committee for Ethnic and Mountainous Affairs.

The government has spent more than $21 million since 1994 on infrastructure projects in Muong Te district in Lai Chau, one of the poorest areas of the country, the official said. Of the total, some $1.7 million has disappeared into the pockets of officials involved in the projects, local media said.

Embezzlement charges were filed in January against Tran Hung Son, director of the state-owned Ethnic and Mountainous Development Construction Co., three employees of the company, and two executives of a private construction company, a prosecutor said.

Bribery charges were also filed against Le Minh Thiet, director of a private construction company, and six local officials, including a vice chair of the People's Committee of Muong Te, he said.

The official said an investigation into one project, a 38-km road connecting Nam Puc and Pac Ma, found that $470,000 of the $1.9-million investment was misappropriated.

The case was exposed last year when Thiet confessed to police that he spent more than $70,000 on bribes to win construction contracts in Muong Te, he said. *AP*

AN ELEVATED view shows hundreds of Chinese soldiers sifting through debris for bodies after a five-story residential block was completely leveled by a powerful explosion in the northern city of Shijazhuang Friday morning. REUTERS

China cops hunt suspect in bombings

BEIJING—The suspect blamed for a series of blasts that killed 108 people in northern China was already on the run for allegedly murdering a woman in the nation's south, the government-run China Daily said yesterday.

Authorities in the city of Shijiazhuang are offering a $6,000 reward for clues leading to the capture of Jin Ruchao, who is the lone suspect in Friday's explosions, the newspaper said.

Wanted posters have been distributed to police and posted throughout the industrial city of 8.5 million, the report said.

A city official, who refused to give his name, said Jin was still at large as of yesterday morning. Police refused to comment.

The four blasts struck within an hour of each other, damaging four workers' dormitories up to several kilometers apart.

Most deaths came at a five-story workers' dormitory of the No. 3 Cotton Mill, where authorities now say Jin lived.

The report said Jin, 40, was evading police since March 6, when he allegedly killed a woman, identified as Wei Zhihua, in the southern province of Yunnan.

The blast at the No. 3 Cotton Mill dormitory was so strong it flattened the building, which was home to 48 families, and blew out windows in the mill's other dormitories nearby.

Police and soldiers were still picking through the rubble looking for victims and for clues about the blast. *AP*

Mahathir keeps on fighting, but for how long?

By Patrick McDowell

KUALA LUMPUR—When 15 skydivers set a record on New Year's Eve by parachuting off the world's tallest buildings, the Petronas Twin Towers, they received medals from the man the nickel-plated spires have come to symbolize—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

One parachutist, impressed with Mahathir's achievement in turning Malaysia from a rubber-dependent backwater into one of Asia's most modern nations, commented that the world would be a better place if there were 40 more Mahathirs to run it.

Maybe not, Mahathir replied: "We'd probably spend all our time fighting each other."

Since taking office in 1981, Malaysia's leader has developed a reputation for world-class pugnacity. He hasn't been shy about taking on all who got in his way, from uppity sultans to the International Monetary Fund to his now-jailed former protégé, Anwar Ibrahim.

But some Malaysians, even within his own party, are wondering how much longer Mahathir, still a vigorous 75 but increasingly showing his age, can hang on to power and whether the stability he has brought in a volatile region will be risked if he insists on staying.

In recent months, the embattled opposition has increasingly landed telling blows, winning a key by-election and staging surprisingly well-attended rallies in Mahathir's home state, Kedah, in the northern rice bowl.

Many Malay Muslims, the dominant ethnic group and bedrock of Mahathir's United Malays National Organization, are deserting to an Islamic fundamentalist movement and to a party headed by Anwar's wife.

Efforts to bring the upstart groups into talks to restore Malay unity—where Mahathir's party has always called the shots in a race-based system—have failed. It could be an indication that politics have evolved beyond the ethnic passions that led to bloody riots in 1969 pitting Malays against the Chinese minority.

While Mahathir contends the 1997 Asian economic crisis that triggered the decline in his popularity is finished, with Malaysia posting 7 percent growth last year, the dizzying boom that characterized Southeast Asia in the mid-1990s has never really returned.

Buildings stand half finished. The national airline and a light-rail project recently had to be bailed out financially. An initial stock offering by a telecommunications company sold only a quarter of the shares available.

And many fear vital electronics exports will slide if the US economy should fall into a slump.

The government has dusted off time-proven responses: It's trying to unite Malays by playing on old fears of Chinese economic dominance. It criticizes globalization while sending trade missions abroad to woo more investment. It's even accused foreign media of an anti-Malaysian plot, triggered by photos in a magazine that Mahathir thought made him look "like an idiot."

But none of that has struck home with the public, and sentiment is growing that the prime minister is losing his touch.

"The politics in this country is not the same as before," says P. Ramasamy, a political science lecturer at National University of Malaysia. "All these things that were taken for granted are being sort of questioned, ridiculed."

Shahrir Samad, a critical member of the governing party's supreme council, put it much more bluntly after the party lost a hard-fought state by-election in Mahathir's home state in November. *AP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Cops vs gambling

CAMP ADDURU, Tuguegarao City—The Cagayan Valley police and Catholic Church officials have joined hands in eradicating all forms of illegal gambling in the region. Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, regional police director, said police have disbanded organized jueteng operations and are pursuing small-time gambling operators. He said Bishop Diosdado Talamayan of Tuguegarao City and Bishop Ramon Villena of the Bayombong (Nueva Vizcaya) Diocese have been helping the police in its information drive against illegal gambling.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Safety nets urged

NAGA CITY—Sen. Ernesto "Boy" Herrera said since the start of globalization almost a decade ago, the government has failed to show political will to install safety nets. He said previous administrations have "spread so thinly the very limited resources" of the government and lacked focus. Herrera cited the coconut industry, which is a major Philippine export that needs development to create a niche in the global market. He said for centuries the Philippines has provided coconut oil as raw materials for different finished products but failed to develop the necessary technology to sell in the world market what other nations have developed into finished products. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Kabayan' for media

LUCENA CITY—Senatorial candidate Noli "Kabayan" de Castro told his provincial media colleagues that if elected senator, he would work for the adoption of a Magna Carta for Media Practitioners. "It's about time the state gives them ample protection and security in the conduct of their day-to-day media coverage," De Castro said. Joe Palmiery, publisher and editor of a community paper, welcomed De Castro's proposal, saying "protection is what the provincial media need. Adhering to the tenets and responsibility of mass media is more dangerous in the rural areas than in Metro Manila." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 33° Lo 23°	Baguio HI 27° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 23°
Laoag HI 34° Lo 24°	Clark Zone HI 34° Lo 22°	Tagaytay HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 32° Lo 25°	Bacolod HI 32° Lo 26°	Roxas HI 32° Lo 27°
Cebu HI 33° Lo 25°	Tacloban HI 32° Lo 25°	Gen. Santos HI 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga HI 33° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 32° Lo 22°	Davao HI 33° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com .ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site), Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 / 233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skylnet.net

Mindanao Bureau
479-c General Luna St., Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-7122
Fax No. (082) 227-6723
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Ax falls on police chief over 'pro-Ping' stance

By TONTON ANTOGOP AND ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusilero was ordered removed as police director of Central Visayas amid allegations that he campaigned for senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, his *mistah* (classmate) at the Philippine Military Academy.

Fusilero will turn over the command today to Chief Supt. Avelino Razon and report to Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, for his new assignment.

Ironically, Fusilero also had to inform another ranking police officer in the region that he was being removed also because of politics.

Supt. Voltaire Calzado was ordered removed as police director of Negros Oriental shortly after Negros Rep. Jacinto Paras accused him of being biased in favor of his arch-enemy, Gov. George Arnaiz.

"I am awaiting the official order. I still don't know who my replacement will be," Calzado told the INQUIRER.

Arnaiz had denied asking for favors from Calzado. Arnaiz and Paras are at odds.

Calzados' transfer would be enforced after Camp Crame secured a go signal from the Commission on Elections.

The Comelec imposed a ban on the transfer, suspension and reassignment of government officials and personnel during the election period, which started on Jan. 2.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) had recommended Fusilero's relief pending investigation of allegations that he campaigned for Lacson, former PNP chief.

Fusilero had repeatedly denied the allegations but refused to answer anymore questions from reporters.

Although resigned to his fate, Fusilero admitted that he was initially shocked when an officer in Camp Crame told him on Friday that he would be relieved.

"I am very happy to have served Central Visayas. This place is close to me. This is an assignment of prestige," he said. "We could have done more but in our career (but) we have to march on," he said.

"I am willing to do whatever job this administration could find for me if given the chance to serve them fully," he added.

Fusilero and some police officers belonging to the PMA class 1971 allegedly extended special treatment to their classmate, Lacson, who is running for senator under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino's Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino coalition.

Fusilero said he never provided escorts for Lacson or did any favors for the Senate aspirant.

Fusilero would have served as Central Visayas police chief until next year.

Fusilero's assumption to office in January 2000 became controversial when Sen. John Osmeña boasted that it was he who worked for the appointment.

Fusilero is retiring in February 2002 when he turns 56. A native of La Union, he has made Cebu City his home.

Villagers learn lesson, rescue dolphin

By ALEX PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Increased public consciousness on the importance of marine mammals saved a beached female dolphin from death in the hands of uninformed fishermen at the Ihalason Beach in Barangay Mangnao Saturday morning.

Bantay Dagat members found the dolphin near the shore before sunrise. It had apparently come close to shore during high tide and was trapped when the tide lowered.

Erwin Dolumbal of the Coastal Resource Management Project said Bantay Dagat members of Mangnao informed the Silliman University Marine Laboratory personnel of the beached dolphin.

Dolumbal, a member of the recently formed Negros Oriental Marine Mammal Rescue Volunteers (NOMMRV), proceeded to the area and found people milling around the marine mammal, which was tied with a nylon rope.

Lawton Alcala, NOMMRV coordinator, and veterinarian Ely Alcala arrived and examined the 1.3-meter long spinner dolphin.

They found a wound near the lower part of the tail and some skin irritations caused by the nylon rope.

Three attempts were made to release the dolphin to the sea but it kept on coming back, Dolumbal said. It was then decided that the animal should be released offshore, he added.

The dolphin was secured with a T-shirt wrapped around the middle portion of its body and attached to a boat. It was brought to an area about 500 meters offshore. The dolphin first swam in circles then lingered in the area before it disappeared.

"I was happy that the dolphin was okay," Dolumbal told the INQUIRER. "I don't want to sound sentimental but she seemed to thank us, swimming alongside our banca for about 10 seconds before she swam away."

He said last year, a beached dolphin died of stress in Barangay Mangnao when people mishandled it. Children were allowed to ride the back of the beached dolphin.

The people apparently had learned their lesson this time.

"They sprinkled water on the dolphin to keep it cool and they also took pains to ensure that the blowhole was protected," Dolumbal said.

Incumbents bypassed; feud in PPC looms

By ROCKY NAZARENO

A REBELLION in the ranks of the People Power Coalition (PPC) in Davao del Norte is brewing following charges that the coalition violated the "equity of the incumbent" and "equity of the impeachment" rule in picking candidates.

Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo chided the PPC for choosing former Agriculture Secretary Roberto Sebastian to spearhead the PPC election bid in the province.

Floirendo is a member of the Lakas-NUCD and was one of the first congressmen who endorsed the impeachment complaint against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Despite being an incumbent seeking a second term, Floirendo was by-passed when Sebastian picked his daughter Queenie to become the PPC official candidate for congressman.

Queenie ran and lost as mayor of Sto. Tomas town in 1998.

Floirendo also said Sebastian also installed himself as PPC candidate for governor against incumbent Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario who has long been a Lakas-NUCD stalwart.

It was also Sebastian who tapped incumbent Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero, a staunch supporter of Estrada, to be the PPC's official candidate in Compostela Valley. This enraged Compostela Valley first district Rep. Roger Sarmiento who is seeking the gubernatorial post as a Lakas-NUCD member.

"Was (Sebastian) in Edsa? Or was he involved, in one way or the other, in the move to oust the former administration? Now, he is lording it over us who were there at Edsa," said Floirendo.

Woman killed, son hurt in Lapulapu rob

CEBU CITY—A six-month pregnant woman was killed and her two-year-old son was wounded by her housemaid and a companion inside her house Sunday night in a subdivision in Lapulapu City, Mactan Island.

Imelda Peñafiel, 33, was stabbed twice in the stomach. Her son, Christopher, was also stabbed in the stomach and was in a stable condition in a hospital in Cebu City.

Only Imelda and her three children were in their house in Vista Villa, Lapulapu City. Her husband, Alex, was working in Saudi Arabia.

Christopher slept with his mother. His two other siblings, aged six and seven, were unharmed because they were sleeping in a separate room.

Police identified the main suspect only as Nancy who was hired three weeks ago to work as a housemaid of the Peñafiel family.

Her companion in the robbery was unidentified but reports said that the suspect was also pregnant.

Police eyed robbery as the motive for the attack because Nancy knew that Imelda was supposed to pay P200,000 yesterday as down payment to a lot that the victim was planning to buy.

SPO4 Geoffrey Baguio, chief of the Lapulapu police homicide division, said they could not determine yet if the money was taken by the suspects.

But the house was in a mess especially Imelda's cabinet where she kept her valuables.

Rosalie Carague, another housemaid of the Peñafiels, told police that Nancy took a day off and arrived at the victim's home past 10 p.m. Sunday.

Roger Paller, PDI Visayas Bureau

2 bank workers killed in ambush

PANIQUI, Tarlac—Two bank employees were killed while another was seriously wounded Monday when two gunmen in a motorcycle fired at their car while in a traffic jam in front of a Catholic school here.

The shooting took place 200 meters from the police station.

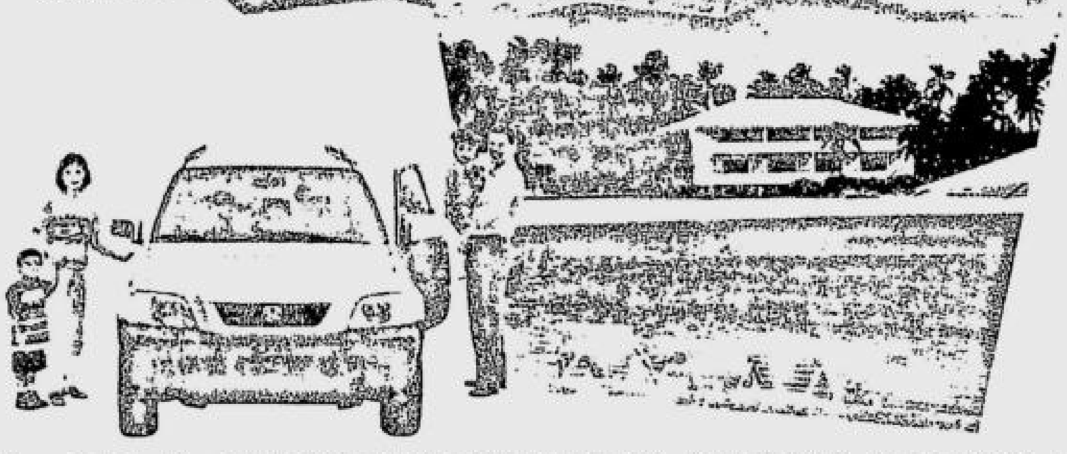
Bank of the Philippine Islands Paniqui Branch manager Carlito Rodrigo, 41, died on the spot, while his companion, bank security guard Bienvenido Lapuran, 57, was declared dead on arrival at the St. Rose Hospital. A third companion, bank messenger Neil Bautista, 31, survived the attack.

Police said Rodrigo and his companions were on their way back to the bank to deposit an estimated P1 million collected from the Red Camia Supermarket on Burgos St. here.

A witness said the gunmen immediately fired upon the security guard sitting behind Rodrigo, who was driving a blue Mitsubishi Lancer with plate No. CLN-292.

Responding policemen arrived 10 minutes after the shooting but the suspects had sped off. Police gave chase.

The driver of a yellow Yamaha motorcycle found with bloodstains was arrested and taken to the police station for questioning. *Russell Arador and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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   Palmas del Mar - Bacolod City
   Pearl Farm Beach Resort - Davao
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Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

A. M. No. 01-2-04-SC. - Re: PROPOSED INTERIM RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING INTRA-CORPORATE CONTROVERSIES UNDER R. A. NO. 8799

RESOLUTION

Acting on the Memorandum of the Committee on SEC Cases submitting for this Court's consideration and approval the Proposed Interim Rules of Procedure for Intra-Corporate Controversies, the Court Resolved to APPROVE the same.

The Interim Rules shall take effect on April 1, 2001 following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

March 13, 2001, Manila.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

JOSUE N. BELLOSILLO
Associate Justice

JOSE A. R. MELO
Associate Justice

REYNATO S. PUNO
Associate Justice

JOSE C. VITUG
Associate Justice

SANTIAGO M. KAPUNAN
Associate Justice

VICENTE V. MENDOZA
Associate Justice

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN
Associate Justice

LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

BERNARDO P. PARDO
Associate Justice

ARTURO B. BUENA
Associate Justice

MINERVA P. GONZAGA-REYES
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice

SABINO R. DE LEON, JR.
Associate Justice

ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
Associate Justice

INTERIM RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR INTRA-CORPORATE CONTROVERSIES

RULE1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1.

- (a) Cases covered. - These Rules shall govern the procedure to be observed in civil cases involving the following:
    - (1) Devices or schemes employed by, or any act of, the board of directors, business associates, officers or partners, amounting to fraud or misrepresentation which may be detrimental to the interest of the public and/or of the stockholders, partners, or members of any corporation, partnership, or association;
    - (2) Controversies arising out of intra-corporate, partnership, or association relations, between and among stockholders, members, or associates; and between, any or all of them and the corporation, partnership, or association of which they are stockholders, members, or associates, respectively;
    - (3) Controversies in the election or appointment of directors, trustees, officers, or managers of corporations, partnerships, or associations;
    - (4) Derivative suits; and
    - (5) Inspection of corporate books.
- (b) Prohibition against nuisance and harassment suits. - Nuisance and harassment suits are prohibited. In determining whether a suit is a nuisance or harassment suit, the court shall consider, among others, the following:
    - (1) The extent of the shareholding or interest of the initiating stockholder or member;
    - (2) Subject matter of the suit;
    - (3) Legal and factual basis of the complaint;
    - (4) Availability of appraisal rights for the act or acts complained of; and
    - (5) Prejudice or damage to the corporation, partnership, or association in relation to the relief sought.

In case of nuisance or harassment suits, the court may, motu proprio or upon motion, forthwith dismiss the case.

SECTION 2. Suppletory application of the Rules of Court. - The Rules of Court, in so far as they may be applicable and are not inconsistent with these Rules, are hereby adopted to form an integral part of these Rules.

SECTION 3. Construction. - These Rules shall be liberally construed in order to promote their objective of securing a just, summary, speedy and inexpensive determination of every action or proceeding.

SECTION 4. Executory nature of decisions and orders. - All decisions and orders issued under these Rules shall immediately be executory. No appeal or petition taken therefrom shall stay the enforcement or implementation of the decision or order, unless restrained by an appellate court. Interlocutory orders shall not be subject to appeal.

SECTION 5. Venue. - All actions covered by these Rules shall be commenced and tried in the Regional Trial Court which has jurisdiction over the principal office of the corporation, partnership, or association concerned. Where the principal office of the corporation, partnership or association is registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission as Metro Manila, the action must be filed in the city or municipality where the head office is located.

SECTION 6. Service of pleadings. - When so authorized by the court, any pleading and/or document required by these Rules may be filed with the court and/or served upon the other parties by facsimile transmission (fax) or electronic mail (e-mail). In such cases, the date of transmission shall be deemed to be prima facie the date of service.

SECTION 7. Signing of pleadings, motions and other papers. - Every pleading, motion, and other paper of a party represented by an attorney shall be signed by at least one attorney of record in the attorney's individual name, whose address shall be stated. A party who is not represented by an attorney shall sign the pleading, motion, or other paper and state his address.

The signature of an attorney or party constitutes a certification by the signer that he has read the pleading, motion, or other paper; that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing jurisprudence; and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

If a pleading, motion, or other paper is not signed, it shall be stricken off the record unless it is promptly signed by the pleader or movant, after he is notified of the omission.

SECTION 8. Prohibited pleadings. - The following pleadings are prohibited:

- (1) Motion to dismiss;
- (2) Motion for a bill of particulars;
- (3) Motion for new trial, or for reconsideration of judgment or order, or for re-opening of trial;
- (4) Motion for extension of time to file pleadings, affidavits or any other paper, except those filed due to clearly compelling reasons. Such motion must be verified and under oath; and
- (5) Motion for postponement and other motions of similar intent, except those filed due to clearly compelling reasons. Such motion must be verified and under oath.

SECTION 9. Assignment of cases. - All cases filed under these Rules shall be tried by judges designated by the Supreme Court to hear and decide cases transferred from the Securities and Exchange Commission to the Regional Trial Courts and filed directly with said courts pursuant to Republic Act No. 8799, otherwise known as the Securities and Regulation Code.

RULE2
COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION AND PLEADINGS

SECTION 1. Commencement of action. - An action under these Rules is commenced by the filing of a verified complaint with the proper Regional Trial Court.

SECTION 2. Pleadings allowed. - The only pleadings allowed to be filed under these Rules are the complaint, answer, compulsory counterclaims or cross-claims pleaded in the answer, and the answer to the counterclaims or cross-claims.

SECTION 3. Verification. - The complaint and the answer shall be verified by an affidavit stating that the affiant has read the pleading and the allegations therein are true and correct based on his own personal knowledge or on authentic records.

SECTION 4. Complaint. - The complaint shall state or contain:

- (1) the names, addresses, and other relevant personal or juridical circumstances of the parties;
- (2) all facts material and relevant to the plaintiff's cause or causes of action, which shall be supported by affidavits of the plaintiff or his witnesses and copies of documentary and other evidence supportive of such cause or causes of action;
- (3) the law, rule, or regulation relied upon, violated, or sought to be enforced;
- (4) a certification that (a) the plaintiff has not theretofore commenced any action or filed any claim involving the same issues in any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial agency, and, to the best of his knowledge, no such other action or claim is pending therein; (b) if there is such other action or claim, a complete statement of the present status thereof; and (c) if he should thereafter learn that the same or similar action or claim has been filed or is pending, he shall report that fact within five (5) days therefrom to the court; and
- (5) the relief sought.

SECTION 5. Summons. - The summons and the complaint shall be served together not later than five (5) days from the date of filing of the complaint.

- (a) Service upon domestic private juridical entities. - If the defendant is a domestic corporation, service shall be deemed adequate if made upon any of the statutory or corporate officers as fixed by the by-laws or their respective secretaries. If the defendant is a partnership, service shall be deemed adequate if made upon any of the managing or general partners or upon their respective secretaries. If the defendant is an association, service shall be deemed adequate if made upon any of its officers or their respective secretaries.
- (b) Service upon foreign private juridical entity. - When the defendant is a foreign private juridical entity which is transacting or has transacted business in the Philippines, service may be made on its resident agent designated in accordance with law for that purpose, or, if there be no such agent, on the government official designated by law to that effect, or on any of its officers or agents within the Philippines.

SECTION 6. Answer. - The defendant shall file his answer to the complaint, serving a copy thereof on the plaintiff, within fifteen (15) days from service of summons.

In the answer, the defendant shall:

- (1) Specify each material allegation of fact the truth of which he admits;
- (2) Specify each material allegation of fact the truth of which he does not admit. Where the defendant desires to deny only a part of an averment, he shall specify so much of it as true and material and shall deny only the remainder;
- (3) Specify each material allegation of fact as to which truth he has no knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief, and this shall have the effect of a denial;
- (4) State the defenses, including grounds for a motion to dismiss under the Rules of Court;
- (5) State the law, rule, or regulation relied upon;
- (6) Address each of the causes of action stated in the complaint;
- (7) State the facts upon which he relies for his defense, including affidavits of witnesses and copies of documentary and other evidence supportive of such cause or causes of action;
- (8) State any compulsory counterclaim/s and cross-claim/s; and
- (9) State the relief sought.

The answer to counterclaims or cross-claims shall be filed within ten (10) days from service of the answer in which they are pleaded.

SECTION 7. Effect of failure to answer. - If the defendant fails to answer within the period above provided, he shall be considered in default. Upon motion or motu proprio, the court shall render judgment either dismissing the complaint or granting the relief prayed for as the records may warrant. In no case shall the court award a relief beyond or different from that prayed for.

SECTION 8. Affidavits, documentary and other evidence. - Affidavits shall be based on personal knowledge, shall set forth such facts as would be admissible in evidence, and shall show affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify on the matters stated therein. The affidavits shall be in question and answer form, and shall comply with the rules on admissibility of evidence.

Affidavits of witnesses as well as documentary and other evidence shall be attached to the appropriate pleading; Provided, however, that affidavits, documentary and other evidence not so submitted may be attached to the pre-trial brief required under these Rules. Affidavits and other evidence not so submitted shall not be admitted in evidence, except in the following cases:

- (1) Testimony of unwilling, hostile, or adverse party witnesses. A witness is presumed prima facie hostile if he fails or refuses to execute an affidavit after a written request therefor;
- (2) If the failure to submit the evidence is for meritorious and compelling reasons; and
- (3) Newly discovered evidence.

In case of (2) and (3) above, the affidavit and evidence must be submitted not later than five (5) days prior to its introduction in evidence.

RULE3
MODES OF DISCOVERY

SECTION 1. In general. - A party can only avail of any of the modes of discovery not later than fifteen (15) days from the joinder of issues.

SECTION 2. Objections. - Any mode of discovery such as interrogatories, request for admission, production or inspection of documents or things, may be objected to within ten (10) days from receipt of the discovery device and only on the ground that the matter requested is patently incompetent, immaterial, irrelevant or privileged in nature.

The court shall rule on the objections not later than fifteen (15) days from the filing thereof.

SECTION 3. Compliance. - Compliance with any mode of discovery shall be made within ten (10) days from receipt of the discovery device, or if there are objections, from receipt of the ruling of the court.

SECTION 4. Sanctions. - The sanctions prescribed in the Rules of Court for failure to avail of, or refusal to comply with, the modes of discovery shall apply. In addition, the court may, upon motion, declare a party non-suited or as in default, as the case may be, if the refusal to comply with a mode of discovery is patently unjustified.

RULE4
PRE-TRIAL

SECTION 1. Pre-trial conference; mandatory nature. - Within five (5) days after the period for availment of, and compliance with, the modes of discovery prescribed in Rule 3 hereof, whichever comes later, the court shall issue and serve an order immediately setting the case for pre-trial conference and directing the parties to submit their respective pre-trial briefs. The parties shall file with the court and furnish each other copies of their respective pre-trial brief in such manner as to ensure its receipt by the court and the other party at least five (5) days before the date set for the pre-trial.

The parties shall set forth in their pre-trial briefs, among other matters, the following:

- (1) Brief statement of the nature of the case, which shall summarize the theory or theories of the party in clear and concise language;
- (2) Allegations expressly admitted by either or both parties;
- (3) Allegations deemed admitted by either or both parties;
- (4) Documents not specifically denied under oath by either or both parties;
- (5) Amendments to the pleadings;
- (6) Statement of the issues, which shall separately summarize the factual and legal issues involved in the case;
- (7) Names of witnesses to be presented and the summary of their testimony as contained in their affidavits supporting their positions on each of the issues;
- (8) All other pieces of evidence, whether documentary or otherwise and their respective purposes;
- (9) Specific proposals for an amicable settlement;
- (10) Possibility of referral to mediation or other alternative modes of dispute resolution;
- (11) Proposed schedule of hearings; and
- (12) Such other matters as may aid in the just and speedy disposition of the case.

SECTION 2. Nature and purpose of pre-trial conference. - During the pre-trial conference, the court shall, with its active participation, ensure that the parties consider in detail all of the following:

- (1) The possibility of an amicable settlement;
- (2) Referral of the dispute to mediation or other forms of dispute resolution;
- (3) Facts that need not be proven, either because they are matters of judicial notice or expressly or deemed admitted;
- (4) Amendments to the pleadings;
- (5) The possibility of obtaining stipulations and admissions of facts and documents;
- (6) Objections to the admissibility of testimonial, documentary and other evidence;
- (7) Objections to the form or substance of any affidavit, or part thereof;
- (8) Simplification of the issues;
- (9) The possibility of submitting the case for decision on the basis of position papers, affidavits, documentary and real evidence;
- (10) A complete schedule of hearing dates; and
- (11) Such other matters as may aid in the speedy and summary disposition of the case.

SECTION 3. Termination. - The preliminary conference shall be terminated not later than ten (10) days after its commencement, whether or not the parties have agreed to settle amicably.

SECTION 4. Judgment before pre-trial. - If, after submission of the pre-trial briefs, the court determines that, upon consideration of the pleadings, the affidavits and other evidence submitted by the parties, a judgment may be rendered, the court may order the parties to file simultaneously their respective memoranda within a non-extendible period of twenty (20) days from receipt of the order. Thereafter, the court shall render judgment, either full or otherwise, not later than ninety (90) days from the expiration of the period to file the memoranda.

SECTION 5. Pre-trial order; judgment after pre-trial. - The proceedings in the pre-trial shall be recorded. Within ten (10) days after the termination of the pre-trial, the court shall issue an order which shall recite in detail the matters taken up in the conference, the actions taken thereon, the amendments allowed in the pleadings, and the agreements or admissions made by the parties as to any of the matters considered. The court shall rule on all objections to or comments on the admissibility of any documentary or other evidence, including any affidavit or any part thereof. Should the action proceed to trial, the order shall explicitly define and limit the issues to be tried and shall strictly follow the form set forth in Annex "A" of these Rules.

The contents of the order shall control the subsequent course of the action, unless modified before trial to prevent manifest injustice.

After the pre-trial, the court may render judgment, either full or partial, as the evidence presented during the pre-trial may warrant.

RULE5
TRIAL

SECTION 1. Witnesses. - If the court deems necessary to hold hearings to determine specific factual matters before rendering judgment, it shall, in the pre-trial order, set the case for trial on the dates agreed upon by the parties.

Only persons whose affidavits were submitted may be presented as witnesses, except in cases specified in section 8, Rule 2 of these Rules. The affidavits of the witnesses shall serve as their direct testimonies, subject to cross-examination in accordance with existing rules on evidence.

SECTION 2. Trial schedule. - Unless judgment is rendered pursuant to Rule 4 of these Rules, the initial hearing shall be held not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the pre-trial order. The hearings shall be completed not later than sixty (60) days from the date of the initial hearing, thirty (30) days of which shall be allotted to the plaintiffs and thirty (30) days to the defendants in the manner prescribed in the pre-trial order. The failure of a party to present a witness on a scheduled hearing date shall be deemed a waiver of such hearing date. However, a party may present such witness or witnesses within his remaining allotted hearing dates.

SECTION 3. Written offer of evidence. - Evidence not otherwise admitted by the parties or ruled upon by the court during the pre-trial conference shall be offered in writing not later than five (5) days from the completion of the presentation of evidence of the party concerned. The opposing party shall have five (5) days from receipt of the offer to file his comments or objections. The court shall make its ruling on the offer within five (5) days from the expiration of the period to file comments or objections.

SECTION 4. Memoranda. - Immediately after ruling on the last offer of evidence, the court shall order the parties to simultaneously file, within thirty (30) days from receipt of the order, their respective memoranda. The memoranda shall contain the following:

- (1) A "Statement of the Case," which is a clear and concise statement of the nature of the action and a summary of the proceedings;
- (2) A "Statement of the Facts," which is a clear and concise statement in narrative form of the established facts, with reference to the testimonial, documentary or other evidence in support thereof;
- (3) A "Statement of the Issues," which is a clear and concise statement of the issues presented to the court for resolution;
- (4) The "Arguments," which is a clear and concise presentation of the argument in support of each issue; and
- (5) The "Relief," which is a specification of the order or judgment which the party seeks to obtain.

No reply memorandum shall be allowed.

SECTION 5. Decision after trial. - The court shall render a decision not later than (90) days from the lapse of the period to file the memoranda, with or without said pleading having been filed.

RULE6
ELECTION CONTESTS

SECTION 1. Cases covered. - The provisions of this rule shall apply to election contests in stock and non-stock corporations.

SECTION 2. Definition. - An election contest refers to any controversy or dispute involving title or claim to any elective office in a stock or non-stock corporation, the validation of proxies, the manner and validity of elections, and the qualifications of candidates, including the proclamation of winners, to the office of director, trustee or other officer directly elected by the stockholders in a close corporation or by members of a non-stock corporation where the articles of incorporation or by-laws so provide.

SECTION 3. Complaint. - In addition to the requirements in section 4, Rule 2 of these Rules, the complaint in an election contest must state the following:

- (1) The case was filed within fifteen (15) days from the date of the election if the by-laws of the corporation do not provide for a procedure for resolution of the controversy, or within fifteen (15) days from the resolution of the controversy by the corporation as provided in its by-laws; and
- (2) The plaintiff has exhausted all intra-corporate remedies in election cases as provided for in the by-laws of the corporation.

SECTION 4. Duty of the court upon the filing of the complaint. - Within two (2) days from the filing of the complaint, the court, upon a consideration of the allegations thereof, may dismiss the complaint outright if it is not sufficient in form and substance, or, if it is sufficient, order the issuance of summons which shall be served, together with a copy of the complaint, on the defendant within two (2) days from its issuance.

SECTION 5. Answer. - The defendant shall file his answer to the complaint, serving a copy thereof on the plaintiff, within ten (10) days from service of summons and the complaint. The answer shall contain the matters required in section 6, Rule 2 of these Rules.

SECTION 6. Affidavits, documentary and other evidence. - The parties shall attach to the complaint and answer the affidavits of witnesses, documentary and other evidence in support thereof, if any.

SECTION 7. Effect of failure to answer. - If the defendant fails to file an answer within the period above provided, the court shall, within ten (10) days from the lapse of said period, motu proprio or on motion, render judgment as may be warranted by the allegations of the complaint, as well as the affidavits, documentary and other evidence on record. In no case shall the court award a relief beyond or different from that prayed for.

SECTION 8. Trial. - If the court deems it necessary to hold a hearing to clarify specific factual matters before rendering judgment, it shall, within ten (10) days from the filing of the last pleading, issue an order setting the case for hearing for the purpose. The order shall, in clear and concise terms, specify the factual matters the court desires to be clarified and the witnesses, whose affidavits have been submitted, who will give the necessary clarification.

The hearing shall be set on a date not later than ten (10) days from the date of the order, and shall be completed not later than fifteen (15) days from the date of the first hearing. The affidavit of a witness who fails to appear for clarificatory questions of the court shall be ordered stricken off the record.

SECTION 9. Decision. - The Court shall render a decision within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the last pleading, or from the date of the last hearing as the case may be. The decision shall be based on the pleadings, affidavits, documentary and other evidence attached thereto and the answers of the witnesses to the clarificatory questions of the court given during the hearings.

RULE7

INSPECTION OF CORPORATE BOOKS AND RECORDS

SECTION 1. Cases covered. - The provisions of this Rule shall apply to disputes exclusively involving the rights of stockholders or members to inspect the books and records and/or to be furnished with the financial statements of a corporation, under sections 74 and 75 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, otherwise known as the Corporation Code of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Complaint. – In addition to the requirements in section 4, Rule 2 of these Rules, the complaint must state the following:

(1) The case is for the enforcement of plaintiff's right of inspection of corporate orders or records and/or to be furnished with financial statements under sections 74 and 75 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines;
(2) A demand for inspection and copying of books and records and/or to be furnished with financial statements made by the plaintiff upon defendant;
(3) The refusal of defendant to grant the demands of the plaintiff and the reasons given for such refusal, if any; and
(4) The reasons why the refusal of defendant to grant the demands of the plaintiff is unjustified and illegal, stating the law and jurisprudence in support thereof.

SECTION 3. Duty of the court upon the filing of the complaint. - Within two (2) days from the filing of the complaint, the court, upon a consideration of the allegations thereof, may dismiss the complaint outright if it is not sufficient in form and substance, or, if it is sufficient, order the issuance of summons which shall be served, together with a copy of the complaint, on the defendant within two (2) days from its issuance.

SECTION 4. Answer. – The defendant shall file his answer to the complaint, serving a copy thereof on the plaintiff, within ten (10) days from service of summons and the complaint. In addition to the requirements in section 6, Rule 2 of these Rules, the answer must state the following:

(1) The grounds for the refusal of defendant to grant the demands of the plaintiff, stating the law and jurisprudence in support thereof;
(2) The conditions or limitations on the exercise of the right to inspect which should be imposed by the court; and
(3) The cost of inspection, including manpower and photocopying expenses, if the right to inspect is granted.

SECTION 5. Affidavits, documentary and other evidence. – The parties shall attach to the complaint and answer the affidavits of witnesses, documentary and other evidence in support thereof, if any.

SECTION 6. Effect of failure to answer. – If the defendant fails to file an answer within the period above provided, the court, within ten (10) days from the lapse of the said period, motu proprio or upon motion, shall render judgment as warranted by the allegations of the complaint, as well as the affidavits, documentary and other evidence on record. In no case shall the court award a relief beyond or different from that prayed for.

SECTION 7. Decision. – The court shall render a decision based on the pleadings, affidavits and documentary and other evidence attached thereto within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the last pleading. A decision ordering defendants to allow the inspection of books and records and/or to furnish copies thereof shall also order the plaintiff to deposit the estimated cost of the manpower necessary to produce the books and records and the cost of copying, and state, in clear and categorical terms, the limitations and conditions to the exercise of the right allowed or enforced.

RULE8

DERIVATIVE SUITS

SECTION 1. Derivative action. - A stockholder or member may bring an action in the name of a corporation or association, as the case may be, provided, that:

(1) He was a stockholder or member at the time the acts or transactions subject of the action occurred and at the time the action was filed;
(2) He exerted all reasonable efforts, and alleges the same with particularity in the complaint, to exhaust all remedies available under the articles of incorporation, by-laws, laws or rules governing the corporation or partnership to obtain the relief he desires;
(3) No appraisal rights are available for the act or acts complained of; and
(4) The suit is not a nuisance or harassment suit.

In case of nuisance or harassment suit, the court shall forthwith dismiss the case.

SECTION 2. Discontinuance. - A derivative action shall not be discontinued, compromised or settled without approval of the court. During the pendency of the action, any sale of shares of the complaining stockholder shall be approved by the court. If the court determines that the interest of the stockholders or members will be substantially affected by the discontinuance, compromise or settlement, the court may direct that notice, by publication or otherwise, be given to the stockholders or members whose interests it determines will be so affected.

RULE9

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. Creation of a management committee. - As an incident to any of the cases filed under these Rules or the Interim Rules on Corporate Rehabilitation, a party may apply for the appointment of a management committee for the corporation, partnership or association, when there is imminent danger of:

(1) Dissipation, loss, wastage or destruction of assets or other properties; and
(2) Paralyzation of its business operations which may be prejudicial to the interest of the minority stockholders, parties-litigants or the general public.

SECTION 2. Receiver. - In the event the court finds the application to be sufficient in form and substance, the court shall issue an order: (a) appointing a receiver of known probity, integrity and competence and without any conflict of interest as hereunder defined to immediately take over the corporation, partnership or association, specifying such powers as it may deem appropriate under the circumstances, including any of the powers specified in section 5 of this Rule; (b) fixing the bond of the receiver; (c) directing the receiver to make a report as to the affairs of the entity under receivership and on other relevant matters within sixty (60) days from the time he assumes office; (d) prohibiting the incumbent management of the company, partnership or association from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business; and (e) directing the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of the order.

SECTION3. Receiver and management committee as officers of the court. - The receiver and the members of the management committee in the exercise of their powers and performance of their duties are considered officers of the court and shall be under its control and supervision.

SECTION 4. Composition of the management committee. - After due notice and hearing, the court may appoint a management committee composed of three (3) members chosen by the court. In the appointment of the members of the management committee, the following qualifications shall be taken into consideration by the court:

(1) Expertise and acumen to manage and operate a business similar in size and complexity as that of the corporation, association or partnership sought to be put under management committee;
(2) Knowledge in management and finance;
(3) Good moral character, independence and integrity;
(4) A lack of a conflict of interest as defined in these Rules; and
(5) Willingness and ability to file a bond in such amount as may be determined by the court.

Without limiting the generality of the following, a member of a management committee may be deemed to have a conflict of interest if:

(1) He is engaged in a line of business which competes with the corporation, association or partnership sought to be placed under management;
(2) He is a director, officer or stockholder charged with mismanagement, dissipation or wastage of the properties of the entity under management; or
(3) He is related by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth civil degree to any director, officer or stockholder charged with mismanagement, dissipation or wastage of the properties of the entity under management.

SECTION 5. Powers and functions of the management committee. - Upon assumption to office of the management committee, the receiver shall immediately render a report and turn over the management and control of the entity under his receivership to the management committee.

The management committee shall have the power to take custody of and control all assets and properties owned or possessed by the entity under management. It shall take the place of the management and board of directors of the entity under management, assume their rights and responsibilities, and preserve the entity's assets and properties in its possession.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the management committee shall exercise the following powers and functions:

(1) To investigate the acts, conduct, properties, liabilities, and financial condition of the corporation, association or partnership under management;
(2) To examine under oath the directors and officers of the entity and any other witnesses that it may deem appropriate;
(3) To report to the court any fact ascertained by it pertaining to the causes of the problems, fraud, misconduct, mismanagement and irregularities committed by the stockholders, directors, management or any other person;
(4) To employ such person or persons such as lawyers, accountants, auditors, appraisers and staff as are necessary in performing its functions and duties as management committee;
(5) To report to the court any material adverse change in the business of the corporation, association or partnership under management;
(6) To evaluate the existing assets and liabilities, earnings and operations of the corporation, association or partnership under management;
(7) To determine and recommend to the court the best way to salvage and protect the interest of the creditors, stockholders and the general public, including the rehabilitation of the corporation, association or partnership under management;
(8) To prohibit and report to the court any encumbrance, transfer, or disposition of the debtor's property outside of the ordinary course of business or what is allowed by the court;
(9) To prohibit and report to the court any payments made outside of the ordinary course of business;
(10) To have unlimited access to the employees, premises, books, records and financial documents during business hours;
(11) To inspect, copy, photocopy or photograph any document, paper, book, account or letter, whether in the possession of the corporation, association or partnership or other persons;
(12) To gain entry into any property for the purposes of inspecting, measuring, surveying, or photographing it or any designated relevant object or operation thereon;
(13) To bring to the attention of the court any material change affecting the entity's ability to meet its obligations;
(14) To revoke resolutions passed by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors/Trustees or any governing body of the entity under management and pass resolution in substitution of the same to enable it to more effectively exercise its powers and functions;
(15) To modify, nullify or revoke transactions coming to its knowledge which it deems detrimental or prejudicial to the interest of the entity under management;
(16) To recommend the termination of the proceedings and the dissolution of the entity if it determines that the continuance in business of such entity is no longer feasible or profitable or no longer works to the best interest of the stockholders, parties-litigants, creditors or the general public;
(17) To apply to the court for any order or directive that it may deem necessary or desirable to aid it in the exercise of its powers and performance of its duties and functions; and
(18) To exercise such other powers as may, from time to time, be conferred upon it by the court.

SECTION 6. Action by management committee. - A majority of its members shall be necessary for the management committee to act or make a decision. The chairman of the management committee shall be chosen by the members from among themselves. The committee may delegate its management functions as may be necessary to operate the business of the entity under management and preserve its assets.

SECTION 7. Transactions deemed to be in bad faith. - All transactions made by the previous management and directors shall be deemed fraudulent and are rescissible if made within thirty (30) days prior to the appointment of the receiver or management committee or during their incumbency as receiver or management committee.

SECTION 8. Fees and expenses. - The receiver or the management committee and the persons hired by it shall be entitled to reasonable professional fees and reimbursement of expenses which shall be considered as administrative expenses.

SECTION 9. Immunity from suit. - The receiver and members of the management committee and the persons employed by them shall not be subject to any action, claim or demand in connection with any act done or omitted by them in good faith in the exercise of their functions and powers. All official acts and transactions of the receiver or management committee duly approved or ratified by the court shall render them immune from any suit in connection with such act or transaction.

SECTION 10. Reports. - Within a period of sixty (60) days from the appointment of its members, the management committee shall make a report to the court on the state of the corporation, partnership or association under management. Thereafter, the management committee shall report every three (3) months to the court or as often as the court may require on the general condition of the entity under management.

SECTION 11. Removal and replacement of a member of the management committee. - A member of the management committee is deemed removed upon appointment by the court of his replacement chosen in accordance with section 4 of this Rule.

SECTION 12. Discharge of the management committee. - The management committee shall be discharged and dissolved under the following circumstances:

(1) Whenever the court, on motion or motu proprio, has determined that the necessity for the management committee no longer exists;
(2) By agreement of the parties; and
(3) Upon termination of the proceedings.

Upon its discharge and dissolution, the management committee shall submit its final report and render an accounting of its management within such reasonable time as the court may allow.

RULE 10

PROVISIONAL REMEDIES

SECTION 1. Provisional remedies. - A party may apply for any of the provisional remedies provided in the Rules of Court as may be available for the purposes. However, no temporary restraining order or status quo order shall be issued save in exceptional cases and only after hearing the parties and the posting of a bond.

RULE 11

SANCTIONS

SECTION 1. Sanctions on the parties or counsel. - In any of the following cases, the court may, upon motion or motu proprio, impose appropriate sanctions:

(1) In case the court determines in the course of the proceeding that the action is a nuisance or harassment suit;
(2) In case a pleading, motion or other paper is filed in violation of section 7, Rule 1 of these Rules;
(3) In case a party omits or violates the certification required under section 4, Rule 2 of these Rules;
(4) In case of unwarranted denials in the answer to the complaint;
(5) In case of willful concealment or non-disclosure of material facts or evidence;

The sanctions may include an order to pay the other party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred because of the act complained of, including reasonable attorney's fees.

SECTION 2. Disciplinary sanctions on the judge. - The presiding judge may, upon a verified complaint filed with the Office of the Court Administrator, be subject to disciplinary action under any of the following cases:

(1) Failure to observe the special summary procedures prescribed in these Rules; or
(2) Failure to issue a pre-trial order in the form prescribed in these Rules.

RULE 12

FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Severability. - If any provision or section of these Rules is held invalid, the remaining provisions or sections shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 2. Effectivity. - These Rules shall take effect on 1 April 2001 following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Annex "A"

Republic of the Philippines
_______ Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
Branch ___

NAME(s) OF PLAINTIFF/S,
Plaintiff/s,

- versus -
Case No. __________
NAME(s) OF DEFENDANT/S,
Defendant/s.
x————————————x

PRE-TRIAL ORDER

I. Summary of the Case
II. Preliminary Matters
    A. Amendments allowed in the pleadings
    B. Rulings on all objections to or comments on admissibility of any documentary or other evidence
    C. Other matters taken up in conference not covered by the subsequent items and actions taken thereon.
III. Statement of the Facts
    A. Admitted
    B. Disputed
        1. Version of the Plaintiff
        2. Version of the Defendant
IV. Issues to be Resolved
    A. Factual
    B. Legal
V. Applicable Laws
VI. Evidence for the Parties

All evidence to be adduced and presented by both parties shall be limited to those identified below. All documentary evidence have already been pre-marked and copies thereof, after comparison with the original, have been given the other party or such party has been given an opportunity to examine the same in cases when generating copies proves impractical. The testimonies of the witnesses have all been reduced to affidavit form in accordance with these Rules and copies thereof given to the other party.

No other evidence shall be allowed other than those indicated below except in accordance with section 8, Rule 2 of the Interim Rules of Procedure for Intra-Corporate Controversies.

    A. Evidence of the Plaintiff
        1. Documentary Evidence
            a) Document No. 1 (Exh. ___)
                (1) Name/Type
                (2) Pre-Marking Number
                (3) Summary
                (4) Purpose
            b) Document No. 2 (Exh. ___)
                (1) Name/Type
                (2) Pre-Marking Number
                (3) Summary
                (4) Purpose
    (Additional documentary evidence shall be similarly presented)
        2. Testimonial Evidence
            a) Name of First Witness
                (1) Purpose of the testimony
                (2) Estimated length of testimony
            b) Name of Second Witness
                (1) Purpose of the testimony
                (2) Estimated length of testimony
    (Additional witnesses shall be similarly presented)
        3. Other Evidence
    B. Evidence of the Defendant
        1. Documentary Evidence
            a) Document No. 1 (Exh. ___)
                (1) Name/Type
                (2) Pre-Marking Number
                (3) Summary
                (4) Purpose
            b) Document No. 2 (Exh. ___)
                (1) Name/Type
                (2) Pre-Marking Number
                (3) Summary
                (4) Purpose
    (Additional documentary evidence shall be similarly presented)
        2. Testimonial Evidence
            a) Name of First Witness
                (1) Purpose of the testimony
                (2) Estimated length of testimony
            b) Name of Second Witness
                (1) Purpose of the testimony
                (2) Estimated length of testimony
    (Additional witnesses shall be similarly presented)
        3. Other Evidence
VII. Hearing Dates

(These hearing dates, which should be scheduled not later than thirty (30) days from the completion at the pre-trial, shall be strictly followed and all postponements by either party shall be deducted from such party's allotted time to present evidence.)

    A. Schedule of Plaintiff's Presentation of Evidence
    B. Schedule of Defendant's Presentation of Evidence

Reyes named new defense secretary

(From page A1)

the department.

Ermita reportedly had the support of former President Fidel V. Ramos and Executive Secretary Renato de Villa.

Reyes denied any such talk, however.

Corona said Ermita "will now go back to his full-time job as presidential adviser on the peace process, which is timely, with the start of peace talks with the communist rebels on April 27.

Other appointments announced by the Palace yesterday were that of AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Jose Calimlim to head the still to be created Anti-Smuggling Task Force under the Department of Finance and Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa to head the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taiwan.

Calimlim headed the defunct anti-smuggling Task Force Aduana in the Estrada administration during which he reportedly incurred the ire of persons close to Estrada whom Calimlim and his men had crossed.

Espinosa's appointment to head Meco is anticipated to be controversial after he had been linked to allegedly fraudulent purchases of combat equipment for the Marine Corps.

His appointment is also certain to draw flak since Mecq is also known as a "cash cow" of the government.

Espinosa, though, may have earned the present administration's gratitude after it was revealed that he had been prepared to lead a rebellious soldiers' uprising had the popular revolt against former President Joseph Estrada failed.

More appointments

Other appointments made by Malacañang yesterday were that of Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos as new Philippine Army chief and Maj. Gen. Edilberto Yap, vice commander of the Philippine Air Force, as chief of the Air Transportation Office (ATO).

De los Santos takes over from Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva who was named AFP chief of staff vice Reyes last week.

De los Santos, who had commanded the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor, was described by Villanueva as a "seasoned combat officer whose military experience spans command levels in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao."

Prior to his appointment, De los Santos was AFP deputy chief of staff. A 1969 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, he began his career as an infantry officer. He has two masters degrees, in business administration and in economic research, from the University of the Philippines and the Center for Research and Communication (now University of Asia and the Pacific), respectively.

Yap succeeded Anacleto Venturina, who held the post in an acting capacity after Capt. Jacinto Ortega Jr. resigned following the ouster of Estrada two months ago.

Yap, who was next in line to Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, retired from the PAF last Thursday after 35 years of service. He was a member of the Air Force Flying School of 1968.

Yap had confirmed to the INQUIRER his and other PAF officers' participation in the military-backed uprising that forced Estrada to step down on the afternoon of Jan. 20.

REYES: President changed her mind.

He was reportedly one of two pilots who flew F-5 fighter jets over Edsa two hours before Ms Macapagal took her oath as President. Other Air Force officers, however, insisted Yap was at Villamor Air Base that day and did not fly an F-5.

Wong to Subic?

Another appointment that is sure to draw controversy is one that Malacañang is mulling over.

This is the naming of Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong, the erstwhile controversial Navy flag officer in command, as head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Corona said the move is aimed at preventing the SBMA from becoming the battleground of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and current SBMA chair Felicito Payumo.

Corona said members of PMA class '69 are recommending that Wong head the SBMA.

"Some sectors have recommended him, his classmates have recommended him," Corona said.

According to Corona, Payumo is a friend of President Macapagal's and she could ask him to resign from his post which has a six-year tenure.

Payumo will be named to another top post, he said.

"It looks like the problem (in Subic) is (aggravated by) the presence of Payumo and Gordon," he said.

"Maybe the solution will be to put in a completely new face there, one who is not under the influence of either person. That might be the solution," Corona said.

He said reports that Wong will be appointed ambassador to Cambodia also were not certain.

At the same time, Corona announced his own appointment as chair of the appeals committee of the Movie, Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

Corona explained his appointment to the MTRCB did not violate the Constitutional provision on ranking government officials holding multiple posts.

Unlike his job as spokesperson and presidential chief of staff, Corona said the MTRCB post will require him to attend meetings only about three times a year.

Other appointments announced were that of Press Secretary Noel Cabrera as member of the MTRCB appeals committee, and Joey Rufino, former Lakas-NUCD executive director, as presidential liaison officer for political affairs.

Other appointments were: Ernesto Villareal, Public Estates Authority chair; Aurora de Dios, chair of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, and Rolando Reyes and Oscar Palabyab, both undersecretaries of the Department of Tourism.

Also appointed were Jaime Paz, Metro Manila Development Authority general manager, and Arturo Brion, labor undersecretary.

Reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan said yesterday a civilian should head the Department of National Defense, but if the President wants a former military man to head it, then the candidate should have been out of the military at least three years.

Honasan made the remark in an interview yesterday where he noted that having a former military man at the helm of the DND would only give rise to more intrigues in the organization.

"We would go back to the cycle of intrigues. I suggest that a civilian be placed there. I would support the proposal of Sen. (Rodolfo) Biazon that we allow at least three years before we even consider any retired military men for that position," Honasan said.

The military hierarchy, according to Honasan, sowed the seeds of mutiny and insubordination when it withdrew its support for Estrada at the height of his impeachment trial.

"We saw what happened to the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Marines where the Marines challenged the authority of their leadership. The leadership blinked and so (Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong) was dismissed. This is not a good precedent," the senator said. *With reports from Christine Herrera, TJ Burgonio and Martin P. Marfil*

Erap claims double jeopardy

(From page A1)

In a 36-page motion, Agabin and Verzola asked the Supreme Court to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from conducting a probe of the nine plunder cases against Estrada for 60 days.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag also filed a 57-page omnibus motion asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its 13-0 ruling on March 2 declaring Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo President.

The court also ruled that Estrada lost his immunity from suit.

Saguisag lamented that the tribunal's decision depended heavily on the diary of then Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, who narrated the goings-on inside Malacañang before Estrada left on Jan. 20. The diary was published exclusively in the INQUIRER.

Saguisag also asked that the justices who attended Ms Macapagal's oath-taking as President on Jan. 20 inhibit themselves when the tribunal hands down its final decision.

Investigators of the Office of the Ombudsman are preparing possible indictments against Estrada, which could be delivered as early as next week, shortly before his 64th birthday.

The Supreme Court has barred government prosecutors from filing any case against Estrada with the Sandiganbayan until Friday.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Estrada was aiming to keep immunity, not power, against corruption charges that could land him in jail.

Several complaints have been filed against Estrada, including misuse of public funds, violations of the anti-graft law, perjury, bribery and at least nine cases of economic plunder.

Plunder, the systematic theft from the state of more than P50 million, is punishable by death.

Agabin and Verzola have asked that the Office of the Ombudsman's investigation be conducted only after the tribunal resolves with finality whether Estrada is still the country's president.

They also complained about Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's "strongly adverse" position against their client.

In their motion, Agabin and Verzola asked the Supreme Court to block Desierto and the current investigating panel from participating in the probe of the plunder charges against Estrada.

They suggested that the Supreme Court "order the constitution of a new panel of investigators composed of three deputy (Ombudsmen representing) Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao" after Estrada avails himself of the chance to answer the plunder charges.

In his motion, Saguisag maintained that Estrada had not resigned despite Ms Macapagal's oath-taking on Edsa.

"Since admittedly, (Ms Macapagal) took her oath as President at 'about 12 noon' of Jan. 20, 2001, the question is: 'Had (Estrada) resigned or was he considered as having resigned as of that particular time creating a vacancy?'" Saguisag asked.

Two presidents

"We respectfully submit that he had not and indeed he has not and may not be so deemed, treated or considered. We continue to have two Presidents today, one de facto (could be acting, per the original understanding) and the other, on leave, which should serve every valid interest just fine as will be shown," he said.

Saguisag said the identically worded letters, which Estrada transmitted to then Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella at 8:30 a.m. and to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel at 9 a.m. that day spoke of "temporary disability, not resignation."

"Indeed, the Honorable Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr., according to him, went to the Edsa Shrine to swear (Ms Macapagal) as acting President only. This cannot be denied; we have the tape," Saguisag said.

Saguisag said Estrada took Davide's word "for he is a man of great prestige and credibility. Presumably, the other members of this honorable court also went along, as it were, on that basis."

Even if Estrada admitted in a "hurried statement" at 2:30 p.m. that at the time amounted to a resignation, "the conclusion would remain the same—there was no resignation as of 12 noon of Jan. 20, 2001. There was no vacancy," Saguisag said.

He went on to ask why the high court allowed Davide to swear Ms Macapagal as president when the position was not vacant then.

"This honorable court did not explain this. And nowhere in its decision is the historic mysterious letter of Jan. 20, 2001 allegedly sent by (Ms Macapagal) to this honorable court ever mentioned. Why? Why? Why?" he asked.

Doronila on diary

Saguisag then brought up the Angara diary, noting that INQUIRER analyst Amando Doronila, who invited the executive secretary to submit it for a book he planned to write, confessed that "the Angara account is inadequate. Other people's accounts are needed. The research continues."

"An account journalists find inadequate should not satisfy those who go by judicial norms," Saguisag said.

"Most men of the law would be uneasy with a revolutionary government but the talk is that the decision has revolutionized the law on evidence on the basis of the diary of Ed Angara, as if it were the genre of Anne Frank's," he sarcastically noted.

We can do it, Comelec assures Congress

(From page A1)

and Electoral Reforms and attended by the Comelec, National Statistics Office, and representatives of civil society movements, including the National Movement for Free Elections.

Benipayo told senators in a public hearing that the bill now shaping up in Congress would cut short certain registration procedures and do away with some safeguards as provided in Republic Act No. 8169.

While Benipayo said he had "misgivings" on the elimination of certain safeguards in the law, "we will make a go for it."

He told the Senate committees on electoral reform and finance that Congress should come up with the new amendments in two or three days.

He reminded the senators that the Comelec had only 55 days before the elections on May 14.

Three Senate bills are seeking to amend the law.

Questions about safeguards against fraud and plain procedural errors were also raised in the House.

Sen. Vicente Sotto, chair of the Senate electoral reforms committee, said most of the senators he had talked to were ready to back the bill. But they wanted safeguards put in place to ensure that the votes of the youth would not be used to rig the May 14 polls.

Both Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., and Senate Minority Leader Renato Cayetano said senators were backing the bill on the condition that safeguards would be put in place.

Emerging from an all-party caucus held before the 4 p.m. plenary session, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte himself said some congressmen "have reservations whether we can do it with safety."

"So it's up to the sponsors of the bill (like himself), backed by the Comelec, by Namfrel, by our people who are knowledgeable in the topic, to convince Congress that the whole thing can be done with safety," he said.

The other "concern" raised by legislators was "logistics."

At the committee hearing, it was projected that the proposed two-day registration would require 129,000 teachers to be deployed in the country's 43,000 registration centers, at three teachers per center.

Belmonte said that as estimated by the Department of Budget and Management, the whole exercise would cost P150 million. Each teacher will get about P400 to P500 in daily allowance.

The participants agreed to switch back to a mode of registration used during the Marcos administration so that the process could be shortened by three weeks to a month.

Board of election inspectors

Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes, chair of the suffrage committee, explained that during the special registration, aspiring voters would be made to apply with the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) at the barangay level rather than with the Electoral Registration Board (ERB) at the district level as prescribed by the present law.

At the BEI level, issues arising from "contested" applicants can be addressed "on the spot." Under the present system, challenges to voters' eligibility require many days of review and paper requirements, according to Reyes.

If the present system is adopted for the special registration, the process may take so long that "we can probably have an election one month earlier," he said.

But as to how many voters will really turn up is still subject to different estimates.

While the NSO, which was represented in the hearing, placed the first-time voters in the 18 to 21-year-old bracket at 6 million, the Comelec is only expecting 1.5 million to 1.6 million, according to Belmonte.

Groups lobbying for the special registration like Akbayan claims that at least 4 million have yet to register after missing the Dec. 27, 2000 Comelec deadline purportedly due to the agency's failure to mount an effective information campaign.

No public bidding

Also in the House hearing, Benipayo said that Congress, in crafting the amendatory bill, should do away with public bidding for the additional election materials.

In the Senate, election legal expert, lawyer Romulo Makalintal, said allowing the BEI to supervise the registration is the "best solution" for now is to "set aside the use of the ERB and go back to the old procedure where the board of election inspectors" were responsible for the job.

Borra said that it would be "manageable" if the board of election inspectors handled the registration of first-time voters.

Borra explained that if there were 6 million first-time voters who would register in the 42,000 barangays in the country, this would mean that board of election inspectors would handle 143 voters per barangay.

Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and John Osmeña grilled Comelec and NSO officials on the actual number of new voters aged 18 to 21 years old.

Mathematically impossible

Borra said only 2.1 million Filipinos between 18 and 21 years old were able to register after the 1998 national elections and the "continuing registration" that ended on Dec. 27.

But Enrile, in an interview earlier with reporters, said he found "mathematically impossible" reports that the number of 18-year-old voters eligible for registration was between 4.5 million and 6 million.

"The population of the country 18 years ago when they were born was probably 40 million and if our growth rate was 2.3 percent at the time . . . then that would be the new entrants into the voters' list at this time," Enrile told reporters.

This formula shows that some 920,000 have reached 18 and are thus eligible for registration, according to Enrile.

"(This) is the one that will delay the consideration of this bill because we are not going to allow the padding of the voters' list by some people if that's the intent. I hope that's not the intent," Enrile said.

Picket

Members of Akbayan-Youth picketed the Senate at noon yesterday to ask for a special registration.

They said the Comelec did not extend last December's special registration as promised.

They added that the Comelec did not sufficiently inform first-time voters of the dates for the special registration.

The group blasted Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Gregorio Honasan for boycotting the Senate special session, saying these were "desperate moves" employed by "trapos" to stop the special registration.

"They are afraid to register the four to five million new voters because these voters will vote against trapos (traditional politicians) like them. We have had enough of corrupt, incompetent and sinister politicians," Akbayan-Youth spokesperson Emman Hizon told the INQUIRER.

In the afternoon, it was the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption's turn to picket the Senate.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez said it was wrong to deny the youth their right to vote. "Disenfranchising four million youth voters this coming elections will be curtailing their rights to choose their leaders." *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

RP made no request for evidence vs Aranetas

(From page A1)

or bank surveillance video or any other supposed evidence against the Aranetas, replied, "I don't think so."

Asked if the German authorities would furnish Philippine officials with proof, Mocken said: "If they want… We have to think about it."

ID problem

The prosecutor's office declined to provide details of the probe, except to say that it was in the hands of the criminal investigation office, the Landeskriminalamt, of the North Rhein-Westphalia region, where Dusseldorf is located.

The Landeskriminalamt announced on March 14 that it had been assigned to investigate a woman "under the name of Irene Marcos-Araneta" who tried to transfer "huge amounts" into Deutsche Bank from Swiss accounts.

The INQUIRER reported earlier that the investigators still had to verify if the woman, who presented a passport, was really the daughter of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Asked if Philippine officials could help them in identifying Irene, Mocken said: "They might help us. I don't know. We will wait for the investigation to finish. We will decide if we need their help."

"They can offer," he suggested.

Mocken also said that Araneta was welcome to respond to the accusations.

"Every accused has the right to say something to the accusation if he wants to. But Irene Araneta is not in Germany anymore, she has returned to the Philippines," he said.

The Landeskriminalamt declined yesterday to comment further on the investigation.

Distrusting Dieter

In Manila, the PCGG vehemently denied the allegation that it ever connived with Swiss authorities to hide the alleged Marcos billions, saying it had even had its own doubts over the results of previous Swiss investigations of Marcos accounts in Switzerland.

For the first time, the PCGG admitted being skeptical about the inquiry of Zurich District Attorney Dieter Jann, who had earlier told the PCGG that Irene's "885931" in the Union Bank of Switzerland did not exist.

Jann's report was later disproved, throwing the PCGG into a quandary amid conflicting reports.

The account was reported to contain $13.2 billion when it was exposed by Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi a few years ago.

PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento said the government's request for an independent study on the existence of the "I. Arenetta" account was proof that it was not simply swallowing Swiss claims.

"That's why we asked for the independent audit by or upon instruction of the Swiss Federal Banking Commission, because we were also confused by the conflicting reports, and the PCGG is the one being put in a bad light," Sarmiento said.

Bad reflection

Jann is the Swiss government lawyer handling the Swiss investigation into the ill-gotten wealth allegedly stashed by the Marcos family in Switzerland.

He was the official who was supposed to have recently asked German officials to provide the Swiss authorities with the pieces of evidence against the Araneta couple.

Corona said the government would "have to coordinate with the Swiss authorities to act on the various pieces of evidence gathered by the Germans."

The PCGG expressed confidence that the new investigation would be protected from any cover-up, despite fears of critics of the PCGG.

He said: "The whole (Swiss) banking system is on the line here . . . It's a bad reflection on them if there are many inconsistencies in their reports."

He said the German investigation would serve as a "safety net" and guard against any cover-up attempts. "I think it's safe because one cannot cover up for the other," Sarmiento said of the Swiss and German inquiries.

Secure

While Irene's alleged billions in Switzerland have yet to be nailed, the PCGG yesterday assured the public that the $642 million in frozen Swiss funds held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank were "secure."

Sarmiento said a deadline for prescription, which former PCGG chair Jovito Salonga was concerned about, would not cover the Marcos assets already identified by the government and under litigation.

The deadline for prescribing action on any remaining Marcos accounts expires in "the spring of 2001" or around April and May of this year.

'Fantastic story'

Also yesterday, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile defended the alleged involvement of Eleazar Reyes, a partner of Enrile's law firm Pecabar, in the attempt to transfer funds.

"What's wrong with that?" Enrile shot back when asked to comment.

Enrile, who is running on the ticket of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, said the law office was "not involved" in the matter.

"It's Eli Reyes who is involved but not my law firm. Besides, I'm on leave," Enrile said.

But he defended the role of his firm, or of any lawyer, in defending any client.

"So assuming for the sake of argument that my law firm is involved, what's wrong with that? That is the oath of a lawyer. Anybody who questions that is a nincompoop. He does not know what he is talking about," said the former defense minister.

"We do not get involved with the morality of our clients," he said.

"A person who is accused of a crime is entitled to an honest and good defense to protect (his or her) rights. Otherwise, we may just as well forget due process and just hang people without trial. That's not the system in a civilized society; you find that only in communist countries. They send them to the gulags."

Asked to comment on the alleged money-laundering attempt, Enrile said: "I think that's really a fantastic story, if I may say so." *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

Told to apologize, Joker calls Ping another name

(From page A1)

Asked what he meant by calling Lacson a torturer, he merely giggled and did not elaborate.

He merely reiterated a remark he made when he had first learned of Lacson's plan to sue him: "If he can't stand the heat in the campaign, then he should quit."

Lacson told reporters at the Manila Hotel before going to his hometown of Trece Martires to file the suit, that he was not interested in the civil damages, but only in proving that Arroyo had no basis for branding him corrupt.

"I'm only interested in proving my point and challenging Joker Arroyo to prove his allegations. Definitely there's no factual basis in the accusation," he said.

Lacson said that Arroyo's remarks were defamatory and libelous.

"I vehemently deny that I'm a corrupt government official. I've never been corrupt. I've never been corrupt in all my military and police life," he told reporters in an ambush interview after a press forum.

During a campaign sortie in Laguna on March 9, Arroyo reacted to opposition accusations that the ruling People Power Coalition was elitist by saying that the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa was full of millionaires and billionaires.

Asked by a reporter to comment on Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police under the Estrada administration, Arroyo replied: "*Ay naku, grabe 'yan sa* corruption."

Shortly after the story came out, a fuming Lacson vowed to sue Arroyo, saying that the congressman's tirade was "a low blow" and that he had never been charged of corruption before any court.

Southwoods receives 2 big awards

WITH the jubilation over its historic back-to-back capture of the Host Venue of the Year of the Asian Davidoff Tour still to sink in, the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club again became the recipient of two big awards recently.

The multi-awarded Masters course of Manila Southwoods was adjudged the best course in the Philippines (Masters) and first runner-up in the championship course category behind the Blue Canyon Country Club (Phuket, Thailand) by the prestigious Asia Golf Monthly.

The two awards were received by club chair Robert John Lamb Sobrepeña during the PGA Golf Show of Asia in Singapore, a week after he attended the Davidoff Tour awards in Malaysia.

The project is a joint undertaking of the region's biggest golf show and the well-respected golf magazine which did the survey from its wide subscriber base all over the world.

"Awards like these can only push us to work harder to get to a better level. We may be the best now but it should not stop us from working to become more than being the best," said Sobrepeña.

Sobrepeña said that from the beginning, they've always set high standards with regards to maintaining the course and now all the rest will have to follow.

Manila Southwoods had also been honored by such prestigious organizations like the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America as the best maintained golf course in the world, the Audubon of Europe and the Golf Digest of America.

It is also the first recipient of the Club of the Year award of the local Inquirer Golf Monthly.

Not just about to rest on its laurels, Sobrepeña bared that they are set to carry out a major upgrading of its greens as part of its determined effort to maintain the world-class quality of its facilities.

Sobrepeña said that they have given the go signal to replace the greens with the very popular TifEagle breed.

The TifEagle, a new generation of the bermuda grass varieties, will first be laid out on the greens of the Legends before it is to be tried on the Masters side.

SOBREPEÑA (right) receives the award for Manila Southwoods from the Singapore sports minister.

CCP registers 1st grand slam

THE CENTRAL Colleges of the Philippines etched a rare feat in the budding Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) when it recorded a first ever grand slam in the league's six-year-old history.

CCP dominated five of the league's key events including its home sports, volleyball, to win convincingly and capture its third straight overall title.

It first clinched the general championship in 1998 before successfully defending it in the last two seasons.

The Bobcats took for the fourth straight time the men's volleyball title and recently added the women's volleyball diadem to establish itself among the big guns in the 15-university tournament.

CCP has topped men's volleyball since 1997. It is the first time, however, for the CCP Lynxes to grab the volleyball crown in prevailing over host Technological Institute of the Philippines.

CCP also stamped its class in table tennis where it clinched the women's division title for the fifth straight year and placed first runner-up in the men's division.

The chess team easily romped away with the crown in sweeping the five-round event, while the women's basketball team finished first runner-up.

Ucap-Bumble Bee derby on tonight

THE UCAP Cocker of the Year 2001 rivalry heats up anew as the "7th Ucap/Bumble Bee Balbina Roadmaster Cobra Balbina 6-Cock Derby" gets going at 6 tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

More than 40 big-time cockers and breeders, some of them coming from Negros Occidental, are taking part in this two-day event hosted by sportsman-businessman Danding Cojuangco and Balbina Group team manager Pete Rodriguez. Sponsor is Sagupaan Super Feeds.

The tandem of Tony Litonjua and Patrick Antonio (Starwars Sagupaan, 36.5 points) is at the forefront followed closely by 6th Ucap Derby champs Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos (BJ Greenwood I, 33), Jet Fernando (San Fernando GP Eagle, 28), Pete Rodriguez (Roadmaster Cobra Balbina, 27) and Pepito Ngo (Mr. Fatman, 26.5).

Another highlight of the event is the participation of National Cockers Association bigshots Nene Araneta (Thunderbird) and Juan Santiago (Firefly Group) who will see action at Mandaluyong Coliseum for the first time, along with Carding Ng, Romy Panganiban, Romy Pamatmat and Boy Lechon de Rocha.

For inquiries, please contact 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

WOODS: "It's always nice to win,"

AP

DRAMATIC FINISH

Tiger ends slump, rules Bay Hill meet by 1 shot

ORLANDO, Florida — No more talk about a slump, just more stories about the amazing feats of Tiger Woods.

Erratic with his driver to the very end, Woods recovered with two brilliant shots that set up birdies, including a 4.5-meter (15-foot) putt on the final hole to beat hard-charging Phil Mickelson by one stroke and win the Bay Hill Invitational on Sunday. "It's always nice to win," Woods said. "It was not a pretty round of golf, but I got the ball in the hole. I was able to get some wonderful breaks down the stretch."

Woods closed with a 3-under 69 and became only the second player to repeat as Bay Hill champion. More importantly, it was his first victory of the year in seven tournaments, the longest he ever has gone without winning to start a season.

It wasn't easy, and Woods needed some luck.

Mickelson had a 6-under 66, making back-to-back birdies to take the lead from Woods and then hanging on with a 55-meter (60-yard) pitch shot to within a couple of centimeters (inches) to save par on the 18th hole.

Woods, who hit only two fairways on the back nine, appeared to be in trouble on No. 16, a par 5 easily reachable in two, when he hooked his drive left of the bunker and about 1.2 meters (4 feet) away from the out-of-bounds fence.

One stroke behind, with the final two holes into the wind, Woods went for the green and it paid off. His 7-iron came out high and long, clearing the pond and hopping up to the back shelf for a two-putt birdie from 10.5 meters (35 feet).

Woods had little choice but to hit driver on the 18th, and pulled it badly. It appeared to be heading out of bounds until it hit a spectator in the neck and dropped next to the cart path. A woman picked up the ball and immediately dropped it _ maybe the Nike swoosh and the word "Tiger" stamped on the ball gave her a clue.

Woods got a free drop, anyway, because his feet were on the cart path.

From 177 meters (195 yards) on grass trampled nearly bare by the gallery, Woods rifled a 5-iron through the stiff breeze and over the water, the ball landing softly in the back portion of the green about 4.5 meters (15 feet) from the hole.

One putt away from putting an end to questions about what's wrong with his game, Woods didn't waste the opportunity. The putt was true to the end, breaking gently from left to right.

Woods let out a roar, drowned out by thousands of spectators crammed around the green, and pumped his fist three times before giving a high-five to caddie Steve Williams.

Woods, who finished at 15-under 273, earned $ 630,000 for his 25th career victory in just his 96th start on the PGA Tour. Until this year, the longest he had gone without winning to start the year was five tournaments when he turned pro as a 20-year-old in 1996.

Chris Perry had third place locked up until hitting two wild approach shots on the 18th and making triple bogey.

So ended the best show on the PGA Tour this year, a dramatic duel even though Woods and Mickelson were separated by two holes. Cheers resounded back and forth across Bay Hill as Mickelson surged ahead and Woods fought back.

Woods was in control until his biggest mistake of the round, hitting a 2-iron off the tee on the 399-meter (438-yard) 11th hole, into the wind. He left himself 202 meters (222 yards) to the green, missed it left and had an impossible chip. *AP*

Gerard Cantada . . . (From page A16)

beat Se Ri Pak of Korea by two strokes. Sorenstam won her 25th LPGA title and set or tied six LPGA records in the process: most birdies in a round (13); lowest nine-hole round (-8); lowest 18-hole round (-13); lowest 36-hole total (-20), lowest 54-hole total (-23); and lowest 72-hole total (-27).

Jenny Rosales shot a 69 and tied for 39th with a 284 total. She won $5,270.

In India, Gerald Rosales tied for 12th in the Wills Indian Open after he matched par 72 in the final round. He finished with a 280 total, nine behind the winning 271 posted by Thongchai Jaidee.

Casas wound up 24th with a 69-284, Rodrigo Cuello tied for for 40th at 287 while Danny Zarate finished way behind at 293.

Andre tames Pete

INDIAN WELLS, California — Andre Agassi defeated Pete Sampras in straight sets to win the men's Master Series tournament Sunday in the 30th installment of one of tennis' most storied rivalries.

His accurate groundstrokes better than Sampras' serve-and-volley game, Agassi took a 7-6 (5), 7-5, 6-1 victory for his first title in 13 trips to Indian Wells.

Sampras had beaten Agassi in the 1995 final for the second of his two titles at the desert event.

The 29-year-old Sampras, who struggled much of the match, still holds a 17-13 overall edge over Agassi, 30, including an 8-6 mark in championship matches.

The two Americans first played on the pro tour as teenagers, with Agassi taking that 1989 match 6-2, 6-1 on a clay court in Rome.

He now has won three of the last four matches, including a five-set victory in the 2000 Australian Open, their last previous meeting.

Agassi won $ 400,000, Sampras $ 211,000. *AP*

NBA RESULTS

L.A. Lakers 95, Orlando 90; Indiana 101, Sacramento 95; Minnesota 91, Cleveland 76; Milwaukee 100, Detroit 96; Utah 111, L.A. Clippers 96; Seattle 104, Golden State 99; Denver 98, New Jersey 84. *AP*

Marave leads winners

PEPON Marave, Bert Neuhof, Mario Cunanan, Donavan Yu, Victor Yap and Tyson Sy struck in their respective categories to strengthen their title bids in the second leg of the 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit here Sunday.

Marave, who assumed the role of the top favorite in the absence of last year's champion Philip Alvendia and perennial contenders Manuel Sy and Mike tuason, dominated first-leg winner Jess Garcia and Jeff Cabalinan in the Formula Super A category in this annual series sponsored by Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Match Box/Hot Wheels, Nokia, Eastway Racing and Demvel's Enterprises.

The multi-awarded karter from Demvel's clocked 21:35.320 in the 20-lap final heat, 4.492 seconds ahead of Garcia. He also submitted the fastest lap time of 43.971 in the eighth lap.

Marave's team, Demvel's, made it double celebration by ruling the team competition over first-leg winner ARC-Tony Kart and Kart 1.

Equally impressive were Neuhof, who defeated comebacking Mike Potenciano, Angelo Baretto, Juha Roiha and Kelly Jones in the Demvel's Formula 125 race.

Neuhof, who finished only second in the first leg last March 4, crossed the finish line with a time of 20:49.473, almost 10 seconds' ahead of Potenciano. Barretto, winner of the opening leg, was a far third with 21:11.686.

Cunanan edged Marzo Samson, Bingo Valero, Allan Uy and Eric Camarillo in the Intercon, Yu outclassed Uwe Madamba, Jeremy Marquez, John Paul Dizon and Jose Aguinaldo in the FSL Light

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Pasay hosts 4-cock tilt

MORE than 70 fast-paced encounters are lined up at Pasay City Cockpit this coming Friday, March 23, when the special 4-cock derby hosted by Madison Go gets under way.

A whopping prize of P300,000 is up for grabs in the event with an entry fee of P10,000.

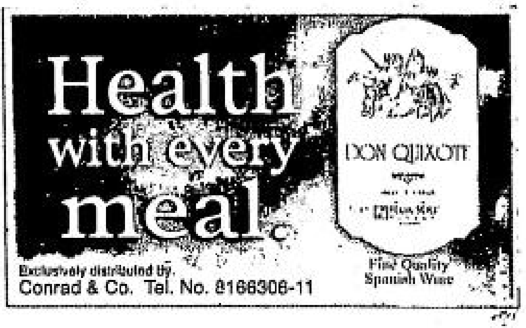
Submission of weights is on derby day, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and interested parties may contact 843-1890 and 843-1746. Another 4-cocker promoted by Makati sportsman Boy Eusebio is slated on March 30.

Zamboanga junior netfest set

SOUTH Mindanao age groupers take centerstage when the Zamboanga City Lawn Tennis Association hosts the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop in Zamboanga City on March 23-25. Club president Orlando Go and project director James Ramirez said deadline for registration is 8 a.m. on Friday, March 23.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor



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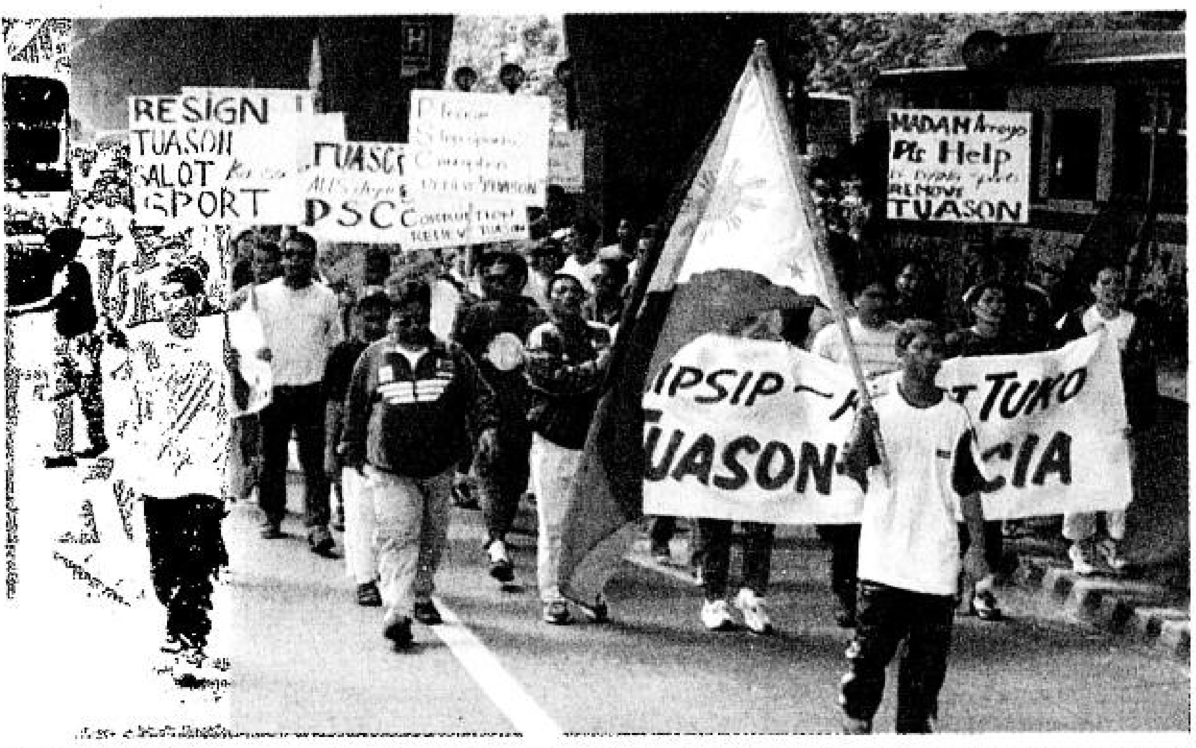
MALACAÑANG MARCH

Athletes want Tuason's head

PSC chief to air side



NATIONAL athletes, among them heptathlete Elma Muros, took to the streets on the way to Malacañang to demand for a revamp in the Philippine Sports Commission. RANDY HORMILLOSA

BY JUNE NAVARRO

NO less than Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuason's head.

Athletes, numbering close to 300, yesterday took to the streets, sought an audience in Malacañang and demanded this concession as the only bargaining chip for quenching the thirst of their long overdue needs from the PSC.

Spearheaded by former weightlifting stalwart Jaime Sebastian, the athletes had a dialogue with Executive Secretary Renato De Villa and asked for a revamp in the top echelon of the government's financial arm in sports.

De Villa promised to take up the athletes' clamor with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as soon as possible and even directed the protesters to make a short list of sports personalities whom they deem fit for Tuason's position.

"Secretary De Villa gave a positive response and we are confident the President will heed our complaint for reform within the PSC," said Sebastian, spokesman of the newly formed Athletes and Coaches Federation.

Besides Tuason, the athletes also asked President Arroyo to replace commissioner Richie Garcia but batted for the retention of commissioners William Ramirez and Amparo "Weena" Lim.

Tuason, however, expects the Chief Executive to hear his side, saying the PSC top brass is entitled to due process accorded to every accused in a democratic country.

"In fairness to everybody, we should be given the chance to explain our side," Tuason told sports scribes. "And let me reiterate, only the President has the prerogative to decide on the issue."

He added both parties must find a middle ground wherein they could meet halfway and bury the hatchet, a possibility which would only occur in the presence of a dialogue.

But the athletes, Tuason said, refused to sit down and discuss the matter he described as easy to handle, making him believe politics could be the moving force behind the ouster campaign.

Aside from heptathlete Elma Muros-Posadas, Grandmaster Joey Antonio, men's basketball coach Boysie Zamar and Sebastian, former POC president Cristy Ramos, athletics chief Go Teng Kok, basketball's Tiny Literal and Graham Lim, Rodones Sicat of weightlifting and judo's Captain Rey Jaylo were also present in Malacañang.

The athletes are complaining of meager allowances, lack of vitamins, equipment, deplorable living conditions in their quarters, discrimination from wealthy athletes and the absence of transparency within the PSC.

Lim, a former national badminton player, urged the athletes to elect a set of officials, who will represent them during talks between the government and the sports officials.

Meanwhile, POC president Celso Dayrit and chair Roberto Aventajado appealed for unity among the disgruntled members of the sports sector.

"The Southeast Asian Games is just around the corner. I call on the sports leaders to close ranks and rally behind the PSC," said Aventajado moments after meeting with Tuason and Dayrit.

Gerard Cantada turning pro

BY JONG ARCANO

GERARD Cantada, one of the winningest amateurs the country has ever produced, is turning professional.

Cantada has already secured the blessings of his father Boy, who nurtured his career since he was 7 years old, to start a new career in the pro ranks.

The bemedalled hotshot may make his much-awaited pro debut in the Philippine Open which will be held at his home course, the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club where he is a member, this coming May.

According to the elder Cantada, Gerard has expressed interest in building a career as a teaching pro rather than actively campaign in the major tours.

"That's part of the plan, it's now really up to him," he said.

Gerard flew to California last week to take an apprentice course on teaching with Chris Walker, his guru at the David Leadbetter Academy in Palm Springs.

Meanwhile, Dorothy Joy Delasin registered her best showing in the LPGA Tour this season when she closed out with a four-under-par 68 to share fifth place in the Standard Register Ping tournament in Phoenix, Arizona.

Delasin, shooting five birdies on the first 13 holes, barely missed tying for third when she bogeyed the 18th hole for the third time in four days. Her first Top 10 finish this year won her $38,998.

Annika Sorenstam secured her place in history with a closing 68 to

GERARD/A15

Jalasco: Supreme sacrifice

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THREE days after unexpectedly resigning from his post, Freddie Jalasco finally came out in the open and confirmed his stepping down as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

"As I've said, I'm always willing to step down just to ensure harmony will prevail in local basketball," Jalasco yesterday told the INQUIRER.

And just like the mantra that ousted President Estrada from power, Jalasco said he has lost the moral authority to govern the BAP.

"This is a supreme sacrifice on my part but I will always be there when basketball needs my help," said Jalasco.

Late last night, Jalasco convened his BAP board, the nucleus of which is the triumvirate of the biggest leagues in the country—PBA, PBL and MBA—for the last time to tender his resignation.

He said his resignation would heal the wounds local basketball had suffered during the four-month leadership battle.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit announced his resignation last week, allowing Quintellano "Tiny" Literal to take command of the BAP along with his minions.

But several quarters were at a loss as Jalasco opted not to entertain calls regarding his decision, which had the BAP crisis come to an abrupt end.

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5 injured in tank explosion

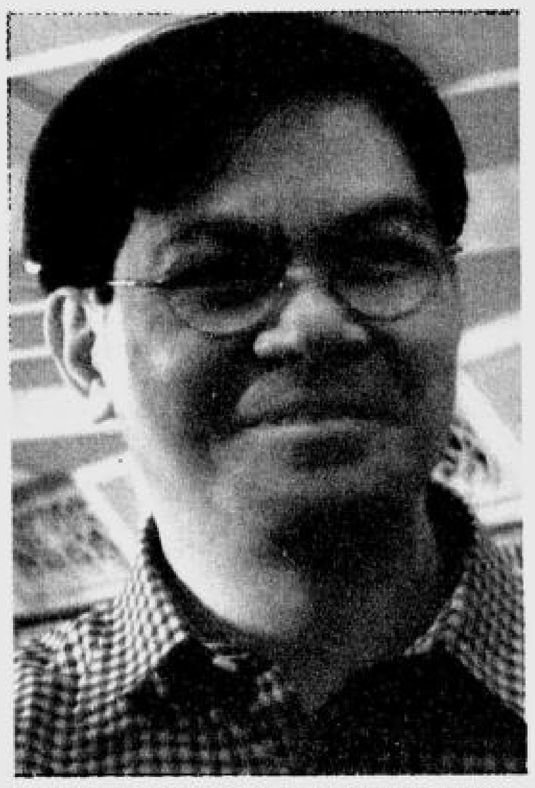
AN explosion of a pressurized kerosene tank in Makati, third accident in Metro Manila yesterday, caused serious injuries to at least five persons. The victims, identified as Adelino Pablo, 23, of 42 Agnes St., Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City; Jose Casbagin, 21, of 135 Purok 4, Barangay Tanyag, Bagong Bayan, Taguig; Prudencio Asider of Antipolo City; Dominador Zamora, 19; and Gerry Pangilinan, 23, both of Waterwood, Fairview, Quezon City, who were eating breakfast at a *lugawan* stand on Gil Puyat Avenue, Barangay Bel-Air in Makati City at around 6:45 a.m., were rushed to the Ospital ng Makati. The stall owner has disappeared. *Alcuin Papa*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Malonzo, 8 others cleared
■ Worker kills brod over TV show
A18

Ping tagged in kidnap anew



LACSON: Seventh kidnap case this year.

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC
AND DAVE VERIDIANO

THE WIFE of a missing Chinese trader yesterday filed kidnap charges against former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson for allegedly masterminding the kidnapping of her husband last year.

The accuser, Jenny Ong Lin, 29, claimed her husband Lin Jun Zhang, 35, was never released by his abductors even after she paid ransom amounting to P4.7 million in April last year.

Jenny told a group of reporters in a mini-press conference at an undisclosed place in Binondo that she paid the ransom after her husband told her over cellular phone that he "would be released by Lacson once the ransom has been paid."

"I never saw him again despite paying the P4.7-million ransom demanded by his abductors," Jenny tearfully said.

This is the seventh kidnap case to be filed this year with the National Bureau of Investigation against Lacson, former head of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

In a sworn statement to the NBI's Anti-Organized Crime Division, Jenny tagged Lacson as the brains behind the abduction of her husband.

Mary Ong, the woman who first accused Lacson as behind the disappearance of at least 21 other people, accompanied Jenny to the NBI at about 10 a.m. yesterday.

Last year, Ong, aka "Rosebud" and former undercover agent of the PAOCTF, formally accused Lacson and several ranking police officials of orchestrating the abduction of at least 21 other Chinese traders.

To this day, the traders are still missing.

But Lacson denied this latest charge, adding that Ong is being used by his political opponents to hurt his chances to clinch a senatorial seat this coming election.

Lacson claimed that the government has launched a series of "demolition jobs" that would link him to kidnapping.

"So what else is new?" Lacson said in a phone interview. "If Ong had anything to do with the charges, then it's a demolition job."

Lacson also denied knowing either Lin

PING /A18

Samurai murder solved

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE WOMAN who was hacked to death with a samurai in her Quezon City townhouse was allegedly killed by her own husband because of intense jealousy, police said yesterday.

Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU) homicide section chief, said Rodolfo Leal, the husband of businesswoman Edna Leal, had suspected his wife of having an affair with her unidentified dance instructor.

Mrs. Leal, 40, was found dead on Sunday in her Marinela Garden townhouse on Mariposa Street in Cubao, Quezon City. A samurai sword was used to hack the head and buttocks of the victim, who was also shot four times in the back.

Suspect Leal, who also lives in the same townhouse, had suspected his wife of having a torrid affair with her unidentified DI.

"She would go to the ballroom night after night so the husband became suspicious," Jaraza said.

He said witnesses saw the suspect leave the couple's townhouse in a Starex van after they heard gun shots about 11:45 p.m. on Saturday.

Security guard Dennis Alipio discovered the victim's body about 7:30 a.m. Sunday while he was doing his rounds. Besides the samurai sword, police also found the bloodstained .45 pistol apparently used to shoot the victim.

Investigators had suspected that the victim's husband was involved in the killing as he did not contact police.

"We have yet to hear from him," Jaraza said yesterday afternoon after police launched a manhunt for the suspect.

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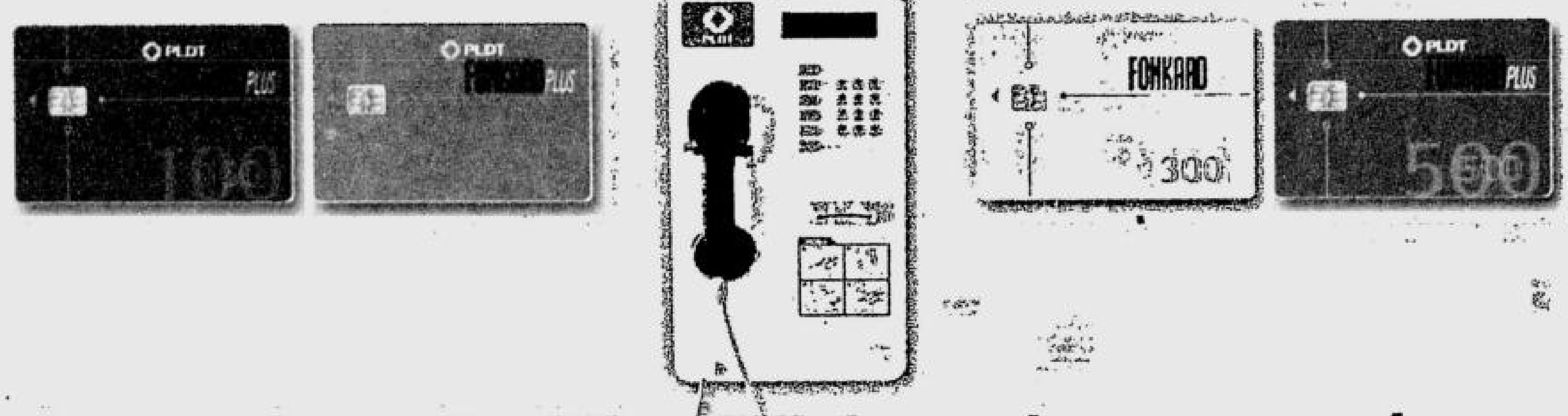

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Road mishaps due to police inaction

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AT LEAST 14 persons were killed yesterday when a speeding gasoline tanker burst into flames after ramming an electric post at the Coastal Road in Parañaque, before plowing through several vehicles full of passengers.

Road accidents like this don't happen every day—they happen every hour of every day in all parts of the country.

Why? Because policemen are not strict in enforcing the rule on speeding.

* * *

Cops belonging to the Traffic Management Group (TMG), which used to be called the Constabulary Highway Patrol, are useless on the highway. They are seldom seen, if ever, on the highway.

And when they enforce traffic laws, they do it shortly before lunch or dinner time.

Our highways have become a virtual Autobahn in Germany where there is no speed limit. You see vehicles racing on our highways between 120 and 150 kilometers per hour. Fatalities are certain at that speed when accident occurs.

* * *

In 1961, many motorists and public utility vehicle drivers in Davao City hated my father because he was strict in enforcing traffic rules, especially those against speeding. He was a captain at the defunct Philippine Constabulary Traffic Control (Trafcon), the forerunner of the TMG.

He and his men would station themselves at a curve on a highway and flag down speeding vehicles. Nobody was spared, even drivers of local politicians. The local powers that be asked for his relief.

A few months after my father was transferred to another station, the son of the then city mayor and his companions were killed in a road accident. The mishap happened at a curve on the city's highway where my dad used to flag down speeding vehicles.

* * *

Back then, Constabulary officers didn't care whether they hurt the sensibilities of local politicians by enforcing the law. As a result, they didn't stay long in one station.

My dad was one such officer. He was transferred every year because he rubbed local officials the wrong way. The result was that most of us his kids didn't stay long in one school. The family found itself in new surroundings every year.

If only officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP) followed the example of their predecessors in the 1960s and 1950s, the citizenry would obey simple traffic rules. Only very few Constabulary officers kowtowed to politicians.

Times have changed. Politicians dictate on the assignments and promotions in the PNP. As a result, PNP officers can't do an efficient job because they are constantly harassed by politicians.

* * *

In a way, Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon is like a no-nonsense PC officer of years past.

Employees at the Department of Tourism are demanding his resignation because of his alleged "dictatorial" style of leadership.

That "dictatorial" style of leadership was responsible for the success of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) which Gordon headed for many years.

* * *

That "dictatorial" style of leadership spared the former US Naval Base from being looted after the Americans left. In contrast, the former Clark Air Base was stripped by looters.

Gordon's "dictatorial" style of leadership was responsible for hundreds of jobless people of Olongapo, Zambales and Bataan being given jobs by investors at the SBMA.

DOT employees are not used to a strict leader like Gordon. The past tourism secretaries apparently spoiled them.

* * *

Former Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Jejomar Binay is again running for mayor of Makati in lieu of his wife, Elenita, the incumbent mayor.

On the campaign trail, Binay should prepare to answer charges from former Makati municipal employees that he didn't remit their contributions to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Medicare and PAG-Ibig. The non-remittance took place during Binay's time as mayor.

At least eight of some 300 former Makati municipal employees have filed a case of estafa against Binay with the Office of the Ombudsman. The case was filed February, last year.

Rough estimates placed the unremitted amounts to P21 million over a period of three years.

By the way, why is the Office of the Ombudsman sitting on the case?

* * *

The San Juan municipal government is bankrupt, according to my source in the *municipio*.

"There is no money in the coffers," said my source.

San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, who's not running for reelection, has spent the money on unnecessary projects, the source said.

My source also said that their new investors in the town are very few because town officials demand P5 million up front from prospective investors.

Malonzo, 8 others cleared

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE OMBUDSMAN has cleared Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo and eight other current and former local officials in the multimillion graft case filed against them by former Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr. three years ago.

Cleared with Malonzo were Vice Mayor Oscar Malapitan, Councilors Luis Chito Abel, Edgar Erice, Benjamin Manlapig, and former Councilors Gil Calalang, Florencio Dolatre, Graciano Gonzalvo, Angel de Guzman, and Cherry Sarmiento.

The Ombudsman had earlier ruled that there was probable cause in the city's alleged spurious payment of P5.9 million for the construction of a public market in 1988.

It released a memorandum reversing the decision when the respondents were scheduled for arraignment before the Sandiganbayan last Friday.

The reversal was based on the reinvestigation by prosecutor Jesus Micael on the graft case filed by Asistio, a fierce rival of Malonzo, in 1997.

Asistio, whose regime was ended by Malonzo in 1995, alleged in his complaint that the respondents caused undue injury to the local government when they approved a city council resolution authorizing the payment of P5.9 million to the Philippine National Bank.

The amount went to Ruflex Construction, the contractor for the Maypajo Public Market project, which was completed in 1988, but was burned in 1994.

The amount came from proceeds of the city's insurance claim from the Government Service Insurance System.

Asistio claimed the ordinance should have been examined by the city treasurer and auditor.

The P5.9-million payment was part of the city's P22.814-million loan from the PNB, which was approved in 1983 when Asistio was still mayor.

The bank then asked the local government to pay the P5.9 million. The amount ballooned to P37 million in August 1997 after the city failed to settle it.

In the same year, Malonzo and the bank entered into a compromise agreement, which required the city government to immediately settle the P5.9 million. Thus, the city council passed the controversial ordinance.

The Ombudsman ruled that the "settlement, as a way of terminating dispute, (was) certainly not contrary to law, morals, good customs, public order, or policy, and thus is valid and binding on both Caloocan City and PNB."

MALONZO

Sunday TV puzzler leads worker to kill younger brod

By Philip C. Tubeza

IS ACTOR Jericho Rosales a member of the cast of the television drama Tabing Ilog ?

The answer to this question proved fatal for helper Benjamin N. Luta, 26, allegedly stabbed dead by his older brother, Raymundo, who did not believe that Rosales was a mainstay of the show as his younger brother had insisted.

Raymundo Luta, 30, a worker from Sagana Street, Barangay Culiat in Quezon City, allegedly stabbed the younger Luta, 26, while they were drinking gin and watching the weekly soap on Sunday afternoon when the incident happened, said investigator PO3 Randy Escobido, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Benjamin died from a single stab wound in the chest, and Raymundo surrendered to the authorities, Escobido added.

"I'm very, very, very sorry. I did not mean it to happen this way. He was my only friend, whom I could crack jokes with," Raymundo explained in Pilipino to the INQUIRER from behind the bars of the CPD-CIU detention cell in Camp Karingal.

The brothers had gone to their friend Chorchino Cagaanan's house on Agham Road in San Roque III, Quezon City on Sunday for a drinking bout.

"Cagaanan was going to make *kilawen* (pickled bar chow) and so we decided to have a few drinks," Raymundo said.

After downing two bottles of gin, the brothers tuned in to Tabing Ilog and trouble started.

When they did not see Rosales in last Sunday's episode they began to argue if the actor was a permanent member of the cast of the show.

"It was not really that big. I just said that the actor, Jericho—I really don't know his surname—is not a regular cast member (of the show)," Raymundo said.

But what started as a friendly debate soon turned into a heated argument as the brothers were already drunk, Escobido said.

Raymundo said he was surprised when his brother suddenly punched him in the face.

"I don't know what really happened. I just blacked out. The next thing I knew, I had already stabbed him," he claimed.

Escobido said Raymundo brought out a knife and stabbed Benjamin in the chest. Both grappled for possession of the weapon, and Raymundo was even wounded in the right arm, Escobido added.

Cagaanan, a friend of the two brothers, intervened and tried to stop the fight. But Benjamin was already bleeding from his stab wound, police said.

At the sight of his wounded brother, Raymundo fled as Cagaanan brought Benjamin to the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) where he died about 3:50 p.m. while undergoing surgery, Escobido said.

Raymundo said he also wanted to go to EAMC for his wound but he ended up surrendering to police at the Baler station.

He claimed that he did not know his younger brother was already dead when he gave up.

Raymundo and Benjamin are natives of Baybay in Leyte. They had been in Manila for the past three years trying to find a better life.

He said their parents were still in the dark about the tragedy that befell their family.

RAYMUNDO Luta: One gin too many. EDWIN BACASMAS

Ping tagged in kidnap anew

(From page A17)

or his wife, Jenny.

In the latest complaint, Ong said Lin was on his way to his furniture factory in Bulacan when heavily armed men whom she claimed were PAOCTF agents abducted him at about 6 a.m. on April 8.

That afternoon, the kidnappers then called up Jenny to tell her to produce P5 million if she wanted to see her husband alive. She was given a week to come up with the ransom, according to Ong.

"But it was only on May 12 that she was able to come up with the ransom," Ong said. "Actually she wasn't able to come up with the full amount since she paid only P4,720,000."

On May 12 at about 5 p.m., the kidnappers called her up and ordered her to place the ransom inside her car.

"She was told to leave the car on a parking lot in Shoemart on North Avenue in Quezon City, which she did," Ong said.

At 10 p.m. the same day, Ong said the businessman called up, saying "I'm still with Lacson. They have already received the (ransom) money. If they release me, I'll be the one getting our car."

But nothing was heard from him after that, according to Ong.

The car had been parked on the SM lot for three days when SM management decided to turn over the vehicle to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Ong said Lin's wife filed the complaint only yesterday for fear she might be killed once she informed authorities about the kidnapping while Lacson was still PNP chief.

"After People Power II when Ping was already out, she was encouraged to come out and divulge the incident," Ong said. "Actually, she had been tracking my whereabouts to seek my assistance."

Earlier, Ong said at least six other Chinese Filipinos were kidnapped and summarily executed allegedly by the PAOCTF during the term of Lacson.

They were Lui Yeo Wu, Sin Ho, Zeng JiaXuan, Zeng Hong, Calvin Wong, and Angelito Sy.

Until now, their bodies have not surfaced, Ong said.

'San Miguel now threatened with violence, filth'

BULACAN gubernatorial candidate Luz Viado yesterday vowed to oppose all moves that would make her hometown, San Miguel, as a dump of Metro Manila's garbage.

This developed as tension continued to rise in Bulacan province, particularly in Barangay Sibul, where two residents were recently shot and wounded after an argument over garbage dumping.

Recently, farmers Wilson Cabute and Ernesto Quiroz, residents of Zone 4 in Sibul, were wounded after three armed men allegedly shot at them with an Armalite, a carbine rifle, and a shotgun. Cabute and Quiroz were reportedly attacked after they urged their fellow residents to oppose alleged plans to dump garbage in their village.

In a statement, Viado said that "San Miguel is a peaceful town, but now we are being threatened by violence and filth. We must not let the bravery of these two farmers go to waste."

She said that any plan to dump garbage in San Miguel is "careless and stupid" considering that the town is the site of the historical Biak-na-Bato parks.

She stressed that any dumpsite in the town would threaten the potable water supply in Metro Manila, since the village watershed is connected to the Angat reservoir.

Viado also urged her townmates to resist all offers to allow the dumping of trash in their areas. She said this would be like selling the town's future "in exchange for dirty money."

Residents of San Miguel are allegedly hired as village coordinators and offered P500 for every truck of garbage dumped, according to police reports.

2 houses, 2 names bring trouble to MJ

Gerald G. Lacuarta

HAVING two houses and two names may yet prove to be detrimental to the congressional bid of controversial businessman Mark Jimenez in Manila's 6th district.

A resident of Pandacan, Manila has filed a petition to disqualify Jimenez on the grounds that he uses an alias along with his real name Mario Batacan Crespo in his certificate of candidacy (COC), and his allegedly false claim that he lives at 3445 Magistrado Torres, Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

Petitioner Teodulo M. Punzalan, of 1490-D Labores Extension, Pandacan in Manila, said Jimenez violated the Omnibus Election Code when he appended the name "Mark Jimenez (MJ)" to his first name "Mario" in the COC he filed on Feb. 27.

Section 74 of the Omnibus Election Code provides that "unless a candidate has officially changed his name through a court approved proceeding," a candidate shall use in a COC the name by which he was baptized, or if he has not been baptized in any church or religion, the name registered in the office of the Office of the Civil Registrar.

Punzalan also debunked Jimenez's claim that he lives in Sta. Mesa. He said the billionaire, his family and household live at No. 6 Intsia Road, South Forbes Park in Makati City.

He said barangay officers and supposed neighbors of Jimenez in Sta. Mesa had also attested that the former Adviser on Latin American Affairs of disgraced President Estrada never lived in that address for at least one year before the May 14 elections.

The Omnibus Election Code requires that candidates for Congress be a registered voter in the constituency in which he shall be elected and a resident of that place for a period of not less than six months immediately preceding the day of the elections.

Punzalan noted that Jimenez stated in his COC that he has been a resident of the 6th district of Manila for eight years and six months, despite the fact that he and his family returned to the Philippines only on May 10, 1998. This was when Estrada had hired him.

Ferdinand Rafanan, NCR Comelec director, said the Comelec might conduct an ocular inspection of the said residences during the hearing of the case. He said that if this could not be resolved before the May 14 elections and if Jimenez wins, the case would become election protest.

Jimenez is facing a 17-count indictment at the US District Court in Washington, D.C. in connection with the 1996 Clinton fund-raising scandal. Jimenez, a major Democratic donor who lived in Miami, was accused by a federal grand jury in September of making nearly $40,000 in illegal contributions to the campaigns of President Bill Clinton and other Democrats in 1994 and 1996.

He was also facing charges of two counts of conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the US government, four counts of attempt to evade or defeat tax, two counts of fraud by wire, radio or television, and six counts of false statement or entries.

In his 17-page response, Jimenez, who is also said to be the owner of Manila Times, denied Punzalan's allegations that he lived in South Forbes Park in Makati and that he was never a resident of Magistrado Torres in Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

Jimenez said he was born in Sta. Ana, Manila on December 31, 1946 and later lived in Sta. Mesa before leaving for the United States. After his marriage in July 1994, Jimenez said he and his wife Aleli Pansacola decided to live in Bacood, Sta. Mesa at No. 3445 Magistrado Torres. They lived in the same house when they returned from the United States, he said.

Ex-hotel worker shoots receptionist

By Philip C. Tubeza

HOTEL receptionist Arlene O. Pineda is now fighting for her life after a former co-employee who was dismissed last year went back to his old workplace in Quezon City yesterday to settle old scores.

Romano C. Amonilo, 27, of 167 Apartment 2-H Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan was arrested yesterday after he shot Pineda, Century Imperial Suites senior front desk officer, right inside the hotel yesterday, said Chief Insp. Edgardo Pamittan, head of the Kamuning police station's investigation section.

Pineda was in serious condition when she was taken to the Capitol Medical Center, police said.

Amonilo told police he was a supervisor at the hotel until he was mysteriously dismissed in November last year.

On Sunday at 11:41 p.m., the suspect took Room 319 occupied by one Rodolfo Hilario, of Antonio, Alicia, Isabela, Pamittan said.

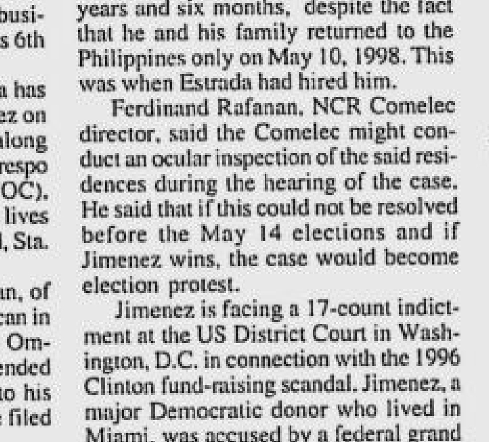
Armed with a kitchen knife, a caliber .38 revolver, packing tape, and a wig, Amonilo called the front desk at 6:20 a.m. and when Pineda got to the room, the suspect shot her on the back, Pamittan said.

The suspect then locked himself inside the room and threatened to shoot anyone who tried to come in, he added.

Pamittan and four other officers arrived later and with the help of the suspect's mother, Celia, convinced Amonilo to surrender.

Amonilo later claimed it was Pineda who tried to kill him. He said the victim reportedly got the gun from a drawer and he only managed to wrest it from her. He could not say what happened to the revolver, police said.

The suspect was charged yesterday with frustrated murder, malicious mischief, and alarm and scandal, before the Quezon City Prosecutor's office.



SHOOTING suspect Romano Amonilo tries to hide his face from the camera at the Central Police District's station 10 in Quezon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Search on for sporting beauties

SPORTSWORLD, the media and entertainment conglomerate, has launched a quest for young Filipinas with beauty, brains and athletic prowess.

The Miss PBA Search is about finding an example of the Filipina of the future—attractive, smart, outgoing, sporting babes.

Sportsworld Philippines CEO Mike Magpayo has named TV show host Cory Quirino as pageant director and Annette Coronel-Cruz as project manager.

Applicants who pass the pre-screening have to go through a "drafting" that is very much like the Philippine Basketball Association player draft. The screening committee members, acting as the coaches, draft candidates according to an individual scoring system.

For the candidates, there will be a whirl of tours of campuses, malls and bars, as well as guest appearances on television and PBA games and visits to charity institutions. There will also be a two-week personality development training camp leading up to the talent night and the pageant night itself.

The Miss PBA and four runners-up will receive more than half a million pesos in prizes. Also at stake is the chance to host a TV program and do commercial modeling stints.

Sponsors of the first Miss PBA pageant include Agfacolor, PCSO, The Manila Bulletin, Jewelmer, FHM Magazine, Bizaare, Loveable Swimwear, Lush Drinks, Home Radio Phenomena, Quest Broadcasting Corp. and Mountain Valley Spring.

Choral music workshop

PROF. Andrea Veneracion, National Artist for Music, leads a powerhouse faculty in a workshop for choral conductors focused on preparing choirs for competition from April 2 to 7 at the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music (AILM) in Quezon City.

The workshop, organized by the AILM, will have Veneracion and Jonathan Velasco of the Philippine Chamber Choir as workshop masters, with choir conductors Joel Na-varro, Rodolfo Delar-mene, Irma Tan-Su, Ed Manguiat, Robert Del-gado, Mark Anthony Carpio and Eudenice Palaruan as lecturers.

Interested choir conductors and members may contact Luz at tel. nos. 722-8575 or 722-5554; fax 722-1490; e-mail: ailm@ailm.net or visit the AILM website at www.ailm.net.

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5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
7	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
8	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
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10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
SM CITY FAIRVIEW		**9350749**
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3	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
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SM CITY MANILA		**5239240**
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
4	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	BILLY ELLIOT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
11	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		**8820950**
1	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
SM MEGAMALL		**6331901 • 6329401**
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
4	DTS	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
SM CITY NORTH EDSA		**9295452**
1	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
5	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
7	DTS	MS. CONGENIALITY
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL
SM SOUTHMALL		**8066888 • 8066782**
1	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
2	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
7	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WEDDING PLANNER
9	ULTRA SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
10	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
TUTUBAN CENTER		**2514302**
1	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVESHOW
SM CEBU		**2313876**
1	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
SM ILOILO		**3209422**
1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
5	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMEN ON TOP
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
SM PAMPANGA		**7128015**
1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ALMOST FAMOUS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

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2	WEDDING PLANNER
3	TOO MUCH FLESH
4	MS. CONGENIALITY

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1	DRACULA 2000	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	WEDDING PLANNER	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	WEDDING PLANNER THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CHUCK & BUCK (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	HANNIBAL	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	MS. CONGENIALITY	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	BILLY ELLIOT	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	BILLY ELLIOT	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	WEDDING PLANNER	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	MS. CONGENIALITY	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARCH 16,17,23,24 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage	

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1	WEDDING PLANNER THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	BILLY ELLIOT	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MS. CONGENIALITY	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	HANNIBAL	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG... DISKARTEKOTO!	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
4 GOLD (DTS)	HANNIBAL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
6 GOLD (DDS)	BILLY ELLIOT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
8	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
9	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	TOO MUCH FLESH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	TOROTOT
3 (DTS)	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	DEMON GATE

Masagana CINEMA V (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	HOSTAGE
3	LIVE SHOW

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	TOROTOT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PURPLE STORM
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	TOROTOT
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	LIVE SHOW
5	WEDDING PLANNER
6	RESERVE
7	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
8	TOO MUCH FLESH

Uniwide Metromall (Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00
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3	HAYOP SA GANDA
4	SPACE COWBOY
5	–
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall (Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

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3	SPACE COWBOY
4	WONDER BOY

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	VITAL PART

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC tel 930.9515

1	
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
A	TOROTOT

JC Cinema (Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	TUHOG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8585

1 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	LIVE SHOW
5	PURPLE STORM
6	TOO MUCH FLESH
7 (DTS)	MS CONGENIALITY
8 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
9 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	LIVE SHOW
3	TOO MUCH FLESH
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	
6	

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
5	HOSTAGE
6 (DOLBY)	DRACULA
7 (DTS)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
8	TOO MUCH FLESH
9	PURPLE STORM

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	WEDDING PLANNER
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	HOSTAGE
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5 (SDDS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	LIVE SHOW
7 (DOLBY)	PURPLE STORM
8	TOO MUCH FLESH

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	LIVE SHOW
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS)	WEDDING PLANNER
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5 (SDDS)	TOO MUCH FLESH
6 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
7 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	LIVE SHOW
Lords	TOO MUCH FLESH
Jennet	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	TOO MUCH FLESH
4	LIVE SHOW

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Super Cinerama (Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	DRACULA 2000
3	WEDDING PLANNER
4	LIVE SHOW
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Divisoria Mall (Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
4	PURPLE STORM
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6	LIVE SHOW

Baclaran LRT Cinema tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS)	MS CONGENIALITY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
3 (DOLBY)	MS CONGENIALITY
4	DRACULA 2000

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	TOO MUCH FLESH
3	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
4 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	LIVE SHOW
5	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	MS. CONGENIALITY

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	MS. CONGENIALITY

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	LIVE SHOW

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	DEMON GATE

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	RESERVE
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS)	LIVE SHOW

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BLONDIE
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	LIVE SHOW

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LIVE SHOW
2	HANNIBAL
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Berma tel 879.2168

1	
2	

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	RESERVE
3	TOROTOT
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LIVE SHOW
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	HANNIBAL
4 (DTS EX)	ALMOST FAMOUS

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LIVE SHOW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BILLY ELLIOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	PURPLE STORM
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FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
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MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
MIRAMAR	KANGKONG / VIVID
ODEON	OOOPS TEKA LANG
ODEON-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ROBEN	TOROTOT
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	OOOPS TEKA LANG
QUEZON-1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
REMAR	OOOPS TEKA LANG
REMAR-2	TOROTOT
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	LIVE SHOW
OCEAN CINEMA-A	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BLONDIE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-2	DRACULA 2000
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	LIVE SHOW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CINEMA-6	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-7	BLONDIE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-12	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-15	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	BLONDIE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BILLY ELLIOT
CINEMA-2	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-3	WEDDING PLANNER
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8:30 PM - Wedding Planner

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Watch out for the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Carmi hits the spot

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE had a fun time watching "Star Studio" on Channel 2 two Sundays ago (drom 11 a.m. to 12 noon). The one-shot comedy directed by **Leo Rialp** topbilled **Carmi Martin** as a widow who brought up her four sons (**Bojo Molina, Mo Twister**, etc.) by fussing over them and babying them to death.

To get her out of their hair, the boys foisted all sorts of suitors on her—but she ended up falling for the divorced dad of Bojo's fianceé.

Much of the comedy show was genuinely funny, with Carmi pacing everybody else with her spirited and felt performance.

Other TV and movie producers should really take another look at this overlooked and underrated talent in our midst. Her breezy performance made her particular "Star Studio" episode truly special.

The only glitch was the excessively slapstick treatment that the suitors' scenes were given. Some of the suitors looked so yucky that we couldn't believe that Carmi's sons were foisting them on her because they wanted her to be happy.

But that slapstick-y montage of scenes soon passed, and the show went back to its genuinely funny mode, with Carmi energizing the whole production up to its fun finalé.

Auditions for rock musical

THE BRITISH Council announces auditions for the Philippine production of the rock musical, "Bliss," which will have five performances in Manila this September.

The auditions will be held from April 16 to 20. Actor-singers are being sought for three roles:

- Jimmy, mid 20s to 30s, charming in the James Dean mold, a rock tenor with solid theater background.
- Maddie, late teens to early 20s, schoolgirl appeal but with feminist strength, a rock altor-soprano who's also an outstanding actress.
- Hitcher, late 20s to mid-40s, sinister, larger than life, like Javert in "Les Miserables,"— a rock tenor-baritone preferably with a soulful, raspy voice.

"Bliss" was a major find in last year's Edinburgh Festival. It tells of a young couple's obsessive desire to get to the sea despite ominous warnings from a sinister figure.

As the various subplots unravel, as written by **Paul Sellar** (songs by **Andy Duerden**), the script's deeper intent is revealed: to make the audience re-think the options of an unwed mother, as opposed to the rights of her unborn child.

The Philippine production of "Bliss" is the first outside the UK. British directors **Mike Friend** and **Andy Duerden** will be at the helm of the Manila production, which will later move on to Melbourne, Australia.

Study tapes are available from the British Council office. Call **Susan Arcega** at 914-1011 to 14.

Modern-day heroes

VIVA Cinema presents movies on the lives of some modern-day heroes: On Monday, March 19 at 10 a.m., "The Onyok Velasco Story" topbills the Filipino boxing champion playing himself, with **Ina Raymundo** and **Ace Espinosa**.

On Friday, March 23 at 6 p.m., "The Sarah Balabagan Story" has **Vina Morales** playing the title role.

On Sunday, March 25 at 12 noon, **Eddie Garcia** stars in "Hukom Bitay, Judge Maximo Asuncion." Other lead players include **Roy Alvarez, Evangeline Pascual** and **Efren Reyes Jr.**

On Monday, March 26 at 9:45 p.m., **Nora Aunor** topbills "The Flor Contemplacion Story."

'Dogs with Jobs'

EVERY Wednesday at 9 p.m. this month, don't miss "Dogs with Jobs" on the National Geographic Channel, the cable TV station's tribute to the world's smartest canines.

They include a Labrador that guides an autistic child, a bloodhound that finds lost pets, and a guide dog with the life-saving ability to predict epilepsy attacks.

TV treats

ON WEDNESDAY, March 21 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Killing Zone" stars **James Dalesandro** and **Melissa Moore**. Replays are on March 22 at 1:30 a.m. and March 26 at 10:30 p.m.

On Thursday, March 22 at 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, the featured documentary is "Mosquito – The Ultimate Vampire."

AMSTERDAM TRIP FOR JOEY LISTENER

Joey@92.3 FM, the leading high-end station in Metro Manila, flies off another lucky listener and her companion to one of the world's vacation hotspots, with the help of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Holland Tulips. Dentist Arlyn Dungca (second from left) was declared winner of the trip for two to Amsterdam in the Netherlands, in a raffle draw held at Italianni's Restaurant. The winner is shown in photo with KLM's Michael Go (left), Joey@92.3 FM public relations manager Tina Tinio and Italianni's marketing officer Juliet Borromeo. More than just a radio station, Joey is known for giving listeners the ultimate lifestyle experience. Aside from fabulous trips to top international and local destinations, it also hosts bar tours, concerts and blockbuster premieres. Tune in to the station and get your daily dose of the coolest rhythms and learn more about its exciting monthly happenings.

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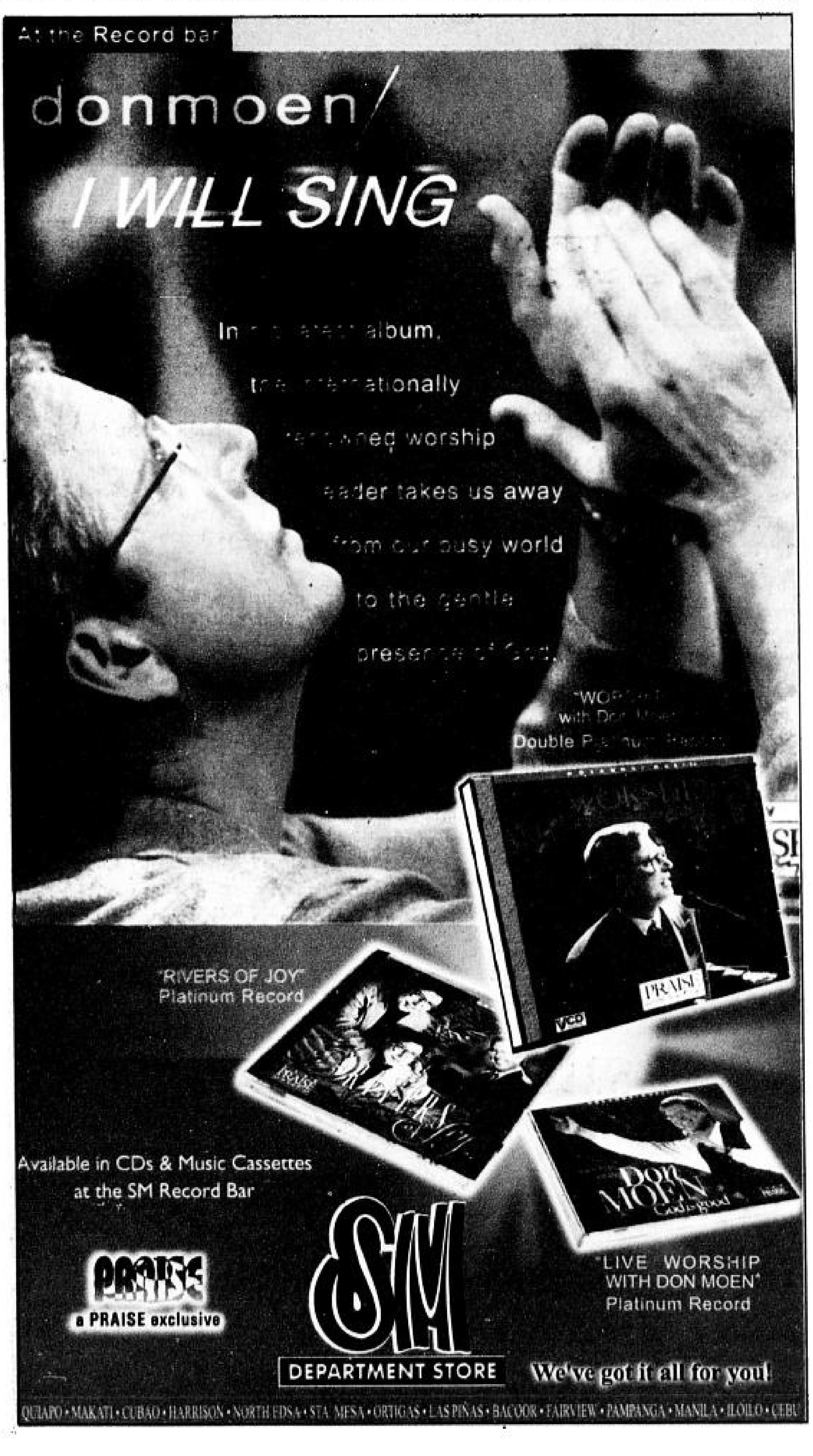

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'BILLY ELLIOT'

Poor boy makes good by dancing, not boxing

BY ALEXIS L. LOINAZ

REVIEW

"LADS do football, boxing or wrestling. Not ballet."

That's what a brutish father tells his sprightly, spirited son when he finds out the boy has been taking ballet classes instead of boxing lessons.

In a nutshell, that also encapsulates the brassy story of "Billy Elliot," the delightful new movie about a determined kid in a hard-up English town who decides to trade his boxing gloves for ballet shoes. By doing so, he not only turns the town's narrow-minded conceptions upside down but also learns what it means to find one's groove and dance to a different beat, literally.

Directed by British stage veteran Stephen Daldry and starring gifted newcomer Jamie Bell, "Billy Elliot" is that gem of a movie that catches you off guard with its endearing mix of quirkiness and sensitivity.

An interesting melange of "Footloose," "Dirty Dancing," and "The Full Monty," "Billy Elliot" thumbs its nose at convention—in this case, a town's rigid belief that boys do football, boxing or wrestling and grow up to become hapless mine workers. But the movie does this with class and sass. When it finally hits its stride, "Billy Elliot" boogies to a rowdy rhythm that makes you want to beg for an encore once its energetic dance sequences are over.

Better than the girls

Set in a North East England suburb circa 1984, "Billy Elliot" follows the travails of its titular character (played by Bell), a shy, restless boy trying to make sense of life in this remote, godforsaken town.

Raised by his overbearing father and hot-tempered brother—both of whom are members of a militant labor union—Billy is on a predestined path to nowhere-land: Like his family before him, he'll probably end up working in the mines and living a life of poverty. His family is so poor, in fact, that they have to demolish their old piano for firewood.

Things seem hopeless for Billy until he comes across a cynical, has-been ballet teacher named Mrs. Wilkinson (the wonderfully acerbic Julie Walters) who works at the same stadium where he takes his boxing lessons. Despite her terribly inept group of ballerina wannabes, Mrs. Wilkinson's class piques Billy's interest and soon the clumsy boxer is leaping out of the ring and into the ranks of these little girls in pink tutus.

Funnier still, Billy turns out to be better than all of them.

Hilarious ways

Sensing the boy's potential, Mrs. Wilkinson offers to train Billy for free—oftentimes in the stadium's boxing ring—and eventually encourages him to audition for London's Royal Ballet School. But more than any audition panel, the biggest hurdle Billy has to face is his father, who believes the boy has turned into a "poof," the local derogatory slang for "fag."

Armed only with grit and a lethal pair of toe shoes, Billy tries to prove to his family, to his mentor and to himself that he has got the goods to escape the confines of his miserable town. Little does Billy know that with every pirouette and arabesque, he's also liberating himself.

"Billy Elliot" is very fascinating to watch because it shows us how a confused, depressed boy slowly comes into his own through dance. In the beginning, Billy is insecure and awkward—he can't even remain standing in a boxing ring long enough to field his opponents' punches. But the more Billy learns to temper, even channel, his frustrations through ballet, the more he develops self-confidence, focus, even a healthy amount of haughtiness.

Director Daldry and screenwriter Lee Hall find many hilarious ways of showing us the lengths Billy goes to hone his craft. He hides his dancing shoes in between his mattresses so his father won't notice them. He visits the local library (in this case, a small trailer full of shelves) and sneaks out a little book on ballet. In one of the film's funniest scenes, he practices his pirouettes in the bathroom but refuses to give up even if he keeps corkscrewing into the bathtub.

"Billy Elliot" also does a nice job of bucking many cliches about male ballet dancers, particularly the stereotype that all of them are gay. In fact, it doesn't even cross Billy's mind that he might be gay and we as viewers don't infer that he is—most likely because he's constantly flirting with Mrs. Wilkinson's naughty little daughter.

Instead, in an interesting plot twist, another one of the movie's unlikely characters turns out to be a poof, an irony not lost on the audience.

Dancing up a storm

The real draw of "Billy Elliot," though, is the electrifying performance of Bell, who was only 14 when he made the film. With his open face and fiery temperament, Bell displays an astute sense of character and emotion that belies his young age. He was passed over for a best-actor Oscar nomination this year, but Bell won the British equivalent of that award last month, upsetting heavy favorites like Tom Hanks and Russell Crowe.

And boy, can this kid dance up a storm. Because his character has never had any formal training before meeting Mrs. Wilkinson, Bell has to shift between a spattering of dance styles—from ballet to tap to jazz, even to a "Lord of the Dance"-style display of fancy footwork. This the young actor does with reckless abandon and ferocity: The emotion is literally borne out of the anger Billy has toward his father, his brother and his backward-thinking little town.

Melodramatic slide

Because of this, the best parts of the film turn out to be its captivating dance sequences—many of which manage to be both graceful and volatile. These actually highlight the interesting contrast between the blue-collar sensibilities of the town's male population and the gentle refinement of Billy's ballet world.

In fact, the metaphor is almost literal in its imagery: While Billy's father and brother descend deeper into the mines and deeper into their desolate lives, Billy is leaping and soaring in the air, free as a bird.

The only real setback of "Billy Elliot" is that it becomes awfully melodramatic, not to mention terribly tear-stained, in its last act. By this time, several characters—even those we thought would steer clear of this type of sappy denouement—have corny "cathartic" moments that seem like they belong in a bad telenovela than in a fine film like this.

Nevertheless, the rest of the movie more than makes up for this schmaltzy slide into melodrama. With its refreshing story and a charismatic performance by Bell, "Billy Elliot" swings, sways, bops and hops to an infectious beat all its own.

You can be sure this film doesn't have two left feet.

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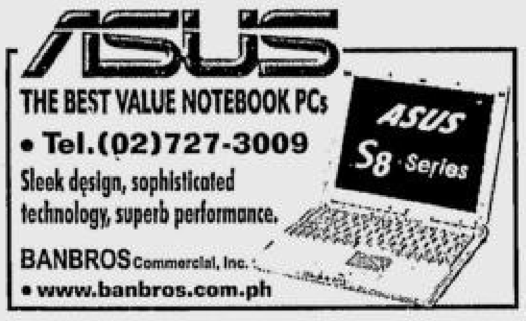
PAY IT FORWARD - P13 12:10, 2:20; 4:30	HANNIBAL - R 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	WEDDING PLANNER - P13 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00



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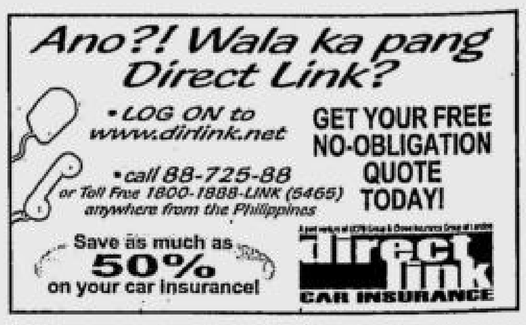

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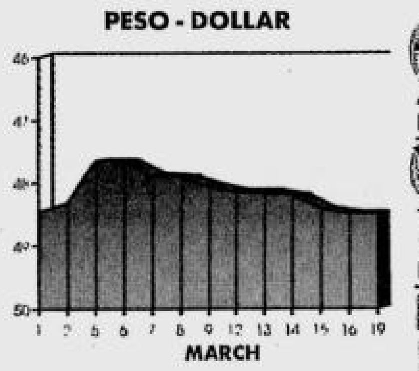

Peso-Dollar Rate

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The US dollar was trading at 123.36 as of 5 p.m., March 19, 2001

GOLD:$259.30/259.80
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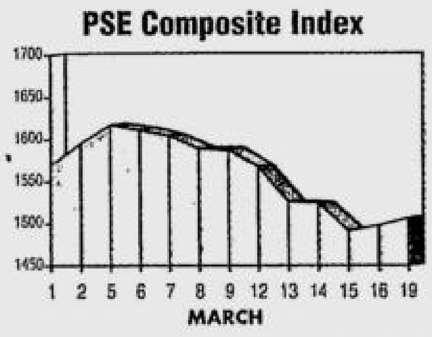
STOCK MARKET

Stocks up

STOCKS closed slightly higher yesterday as local investors engaged in short-term buying of select blue chips ahead of an expected cut in US interest rates later in the week which could boost market sentiment.

But turnover remained

STOCKS/ B3



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Global slowdown seen to delay RP recovery

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ASIAN Development Bank yesterday warned that the US-led global economic slowdown and weak electronics demand could further delay the recovery of the Philippine economy.

The Manila-based ADB said this as it cut its economic growth forecast for the Philippines and four other Asian economies—Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand—for this year to an average of 4 percent from 7.1 percent last year.

"Our estimates suggest that the recovery will be slower in the crisis-hit nations but not derailed," Yoshihiro Iwasaki, head of ADB's regional economic monitoring unit, said in a briefing yesterday.

For the Philippines alone, the latest Asia Recovery Report of the ADB projected a 3-percent to 3.5-percent growth in the gross domestic product this year, lower than the 3.8-percent to 4.3-percent range being targeted by the Macapagal administration and the 3.9-percent growth recorded last year.

The report, which was released yesterday by the ADB's regional economic monitoring unit (Remu), said the slowdown in the global economy and the electronics industry this year could reduce the country's export growth rates.

The report estimated that the heightened risks posed by the global economic slowdown could reduce the country's growth potential this year by about 0.9 to 1.6 percentage points.

It also said that the 3-percent to 3.5-percent growth outlook of ADB for the Philippines still hinges on the rebound of private investment performance and the government's resolve to contain the country's budget deficit within its target.

The report noted that three years after the Asian financial crisis, private spending in the Philippines has yet to show signs of recovery.

"It would be difficult to blame external factors such as oil price increases and the lingering effects of the crisis because Indonesia, Korea and Malaysia and Thailand experienced much higher

GLOBAL/ B3

Budget deficit beats estimates

THE COUNTRY posted a budget deficit of P18.9 billion in the first two months of 2001, lower than the targeted P20.9 billion, data released yesterday by the Department of Finance showed.

The government has set a budget-deficit target of P145 billion in 2001. The deficit swelled to P136.1 billion last year, more than double its original target due to weak revenue collection and privatization proceeds.

Reining the budget deficit is regarded as the biggest economic challenge by far to the Macapagal administration.

Macapagal, who took office Jan. 20 after mass protests ousted her predecessor on corruption

BUDGET/ B3

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DAY 1 (WED) CONFERENCE PROGRAM

09:00 - 09:15
Welcome of Delegates

09:15 - 09:45
Consumer Value: Key to Economic Development
DTI Secretary *Mar Roxas*

09:45 - 10:35
Overview of ECR and ECR Philippines and Update of ECR Initiatives
ECRP Co-Chairs, *Pong Ejercito, Unilever Philippines* and *JDH-Zuellig*

10:35 - 10:50 Break

10:50 - 11:20
ECR Delivers in Traditional Setting
Keynote Speaker

11:20 - 12:30
The Global ECR Scorecard: Capability Assessment Tool
Patrick Medley, *Price Waterhouse Cooper*
Case Study: J&J and Waltermart

12:30 - 02:00 Lunch

02:00 - 02:45
Connecting Your Backroom Supply Chain for Productive Synchronization
Case Study: CMC & San Miguel

02:45 - 03:15
Win-Win Approach In Increasing Consumer Value
Case Study: SLOG of P&G
Procter & Gamble and *Supervalue, Inc.*

03:15 - 03:45
Slipsheets: The Pallet Alternative
Nestle Philippines

03:45 - 4:00 Break

04:00 - 04:30
Improve Your Warehousing Operations thru Pallet Pooling
Case Study: Pilot Project of ECRP
Unilever Philippines and Rustan's

04:30 - 05:15
Delivering a More Responsive Distribution System - *DMAP*

05:15 - 05:45
Reducing Inventory thru VMI
Unilever Philippines and Grocent

05:45 - 06:00
Launch of ECRP Website - www.ecrphils.com
ECRP Marketing and Communications

D[illegible] (THU) [illegible]FERENCE PROGRAM

08:30 - 08:40
Program Introduction

08:40 - 09:20
Consumer Act of Purchase
Catherine Moffat, *Trading-Up Inc.*

09:20 - 10:00
The Filipino Shopper
Mr. Ned Norberto

10:00 - 10:45
Consumer Value Creation
Patrick Medley, *Price Waterhouse Cooper*

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:00
Winning Through Category Management Partnership
Case Study: Unilever & Robinson's
Case Study: P&G and Rustan's

12:00 - 12:30
The Role of EAN to ECR
Peppy Albert, *Philippine Article Numbering Council*

12:30 - 02:00 Lunch

02:00 - 02:45
EDI Application in SM Supermarket
Supervalue, Inc.

02:45 - 03:45
Electronic Funds Flow Towards Zero Reconciliation
Case Study: SuySing and Unionbank

03:45 - 04:00 Break

04:00 - 04:30
E-Market in the Philippines

04:30 - 05:00
Revolutionizing Your Business Through IT

05:00 - 05:45
Senior Executive Panel Discussion
Hilarjo Marasigan (Facilitator), *Ateneo Graduate School of Business*

05:45 - 06:00
Conclusion of Plenary Discussion
ECRP Co-Chairs
Pong Ejercito, *Unilever Philippines* and Jess Dinglasan, *JDH-Zuellig*

DAY 3 (FRI) CONFERENCE PROGRAM

08:30 - 11:00
ECR Concepts
ECR Philippines

02:00 - 03:30
Demand Track : Preparing Your Organization for the Demand Side of ECR
Unilever Philippines
Supply Track : ECR Global Scorecard
Price Waterhouse Cooper
Supply Track : Industry Standards of Palletization
ECR Philippines

04:00 - 05:30
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Smoke gets in your heist

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HAH, so you think it's easy! Giving out incentives to business may be a very rewarding job, but somebody in this cute administration of Gloriaetta must do the heist. Hey, just try bending a few rules here and there.

You shouldn't envy the guy who moves heaven and earth, plus a few rules here and there, just to find innovative ways to award multibillion-peso tax breaks to one of the world's biggest sellers of vice—US cigarette company Philip Morris.

Such a difficult task falls on the Board of Investments, which is under the Department of Trade and Industry that, in turn, is headed by Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, who is one of the recycled members in Gloriaetta's unfinished Cabinet.

I don't know if Sen. Juan "Yosi Kadiri" Flavier is busy getting himself reelected to the post of Legislative Top Jester, but I tell you, if the news gets to him, I don't think that even such a hilarious guy will find it funny.

Something is definitely funny in this cute administration's plan to award tax incentives to Philip Morris. The American firm is getting them "pro rata." Now this is a not a "professional" rata, silly, because what the hell is a "rata," anyway?

* * *

IT only means that Philip Morris is not going to pay huge amounts of taxes to this cute administration, whether or not it qualifies for incentives under the BOI's rules. In short, the deal smells, although it cannot technically be called "cronyism."

Technically, cronyism only describes the deals of the government under the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. Under this cute administration, such a suspicious deal as "pro rata" incentives for top priority health products like cigarettes is called a "review."

The review applies to BOI rules. Technically, "review" means "just change them." One rule says Philip Morris doesn't have to pay billions of pesos in taxes as long as it exports 70 percent of the potential lung cancer it hopes to give Filipinos instead.

Philip Morris will export only 30 percent of production in a lung-cancer factory worth about $300 million, which it will build here. The BOI, therefore, is willing to give Philip Morris only 30 percent of the incentives. Hence, pro rata! Like a smoking heist!

But BOI rules do not exempt even a US firm that invests in cigarette-making in a poor country like ours just because it is abhorred by the public in its own country. That's why that particular BOI rule needs a little . . . ah, well, "review."

* * *

JUST in time for the peak season, which is around this time of the year, Northwest Airlines is adding three more flights every week between the United States and the Philippines. They are, unfortunately for Philip Morris, all non-smoking flights.

Anyway, should I smell optimism there? I should, according to Northwest's general manager in Manila, Gina Campos, although she revealed that it has been planned even before the recent sudden change in administration from "crude" to "cute."

All in all, nevertheless, starting in April, the airline will have 21 flights a week or thrice daily. How is that possible? I thought that the Wrist Band administration, by having PAL's Lucio Tan for a "crony," already killed tourism in the country.

Whatever they say, according to Campos, it is a growing market. Filipinos in the United States (i.e. Billy and Gracia) always want to come home for a short visit. Inversely, Filipinos here always want to go the US for good.

Fortunately for Northwest, anyway, it is the only airline from the US mainland that flies this route. Together with PAL, the national flag carrier, the two command 85 percent of the market, despite the continued cheating of two Taiwanese airlines.

* * *

EVERYBODY knows this cute administration is trying to rush the Omnibus Power Bill. After all, it only took the legislature more than five years already, by golly, to finish the bill! Because of the rush, precisely, there's a good chance magic can happen.

I heard that the bill just went through a serious mutilation in the bicameral conference committee. It's there that magic can happen in an important piece of legislation like the power bill. Just remember the case of the VAT!

Reports said that Sen. John Osmeña applied magic by inserting a provision in the bill. Basically, it limits ownership in a power firm to 15 percent for individual or business group. The rule does not apply on power firms listed in the stock market.

Osmeña says it's the best way to prevent monopoly and to disperse ownership in the power sector. Really? Opposing Osmeña is Sen. Raul Roco, who is now a Cabinet member of Gloriaetta, whom Roco once asked also to resign with Wrist Band.

Anyway, Roco says that Osmeña's provision does not prevent monopoly. Let's say Osmeña's provision succeeds and it makes each of us an owner in the only power company in the country. Hmm, isn't that still a monopoly, only it has many owners?

* * *

IN effect, the Osmeña "magic" should force power companies to get listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange. At the moment, only two such companies are listed. They belong to the biggest names in big business.

I don't know if the Osmeña magic will make stockbrokers jump for joy. I only know that all kinds of laws already require dispersal of ownership in business. It's just that nobody obeys them.

Most of the power firms are about ready to jump Osmeña on the face. It's not easy to list at the exchange. The PSE has various criteria, such as firms must pay for the breakfast-in-bed of the PSE board. In other words, public listing is also expensive.

Moreover, under the Osmeña "magic," if a power firm doesn't get listed, its owners will have to unload their shares. Who do you think will be in the best position to gobble up those firms? Yes, none other than the big giant power companies!

They are those owned by the Lopezes and the Aboitizes, which are among the biggest names in big business. In short, the very thing that the Osmeña "magic" warns us against is the very thing it will likely create. And that is, monopolization. Nice, no?

Manila Water says it won't cut capex despite big losses

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

MANILA Water Co. Inc. said yesterday it would continue to spend on new pipelines, equipment, buildings and other capital expenditures despite incurring huge losses from the peso's depreciation.

In an interview, Manila Water president Antonino Aquino said the company was keeping its capital expenditures at P1.5 billion this year, but it was observing a very tight budget.

"We will continue with our projects. We have developed a business plan that will cover our foreign exchange losses, but it will require a lot of belt-tightening on our part," Aquino told the INQUIRER.

Manila Water reported earlier that its financial losses resulting from the weak peso had swelled to almost P11 billion. The dollar-denominated debt it inherited when it won a concession from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System nearly five years ago stood at P6 billion.

At the start of the year, the MWSS Regulatory Office allowed Manila Water to raise, on account of inflation and the peso's depreciation, its basic water charges by 19 centavos. The adjustment was lower than the 23 centavos that Manila Water sought.

Apart from getting an increase of 23 centavos per cubic meter, Manila Water also got a conditional authority to raise its rates by 18 centavos per cubic meter. This adjustment still hangs because it is now the subject of a case filed with the Court of Appeals.

The 18-centavo increase was the recommendation of an arbitration court formed to act on an appeal filed by Manila Water in 1998, when it was allowed only a 4-centavo increase. The MWSS Regulatory Office has challenged the arbitration court's decision before the Court of Appeals.

Aquino said the delay in the implementation of the 18-centavo provisional increase was weighing heavily on Manila Water's finances.

"Every month that this provisional increase on our basic rates is delayed is causing us some P4 million to P5 million in losses. The net effect impact of this delay, I am afraid, will result in higher water rates for consumers," he warned.

Despite the losses, however, Aquino said Manila Water, unlike its twin concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services Inc., had no plan to end its contract with the MWSS.

Manila Water would continue to operate under its concession agreement with the MWSS, Aquino said.

Maynilad threatened earlier to end its contract with the MWSS, citing huge foreign exchange-related losses that it said were bleeding it dry.

The company has since taken a softer position on the issue and has said it is now ready to work out a compromise with the government.

Both Manila Water and Maynilad sought a pricing mechanism that would allow them to automatically raise their rates.

Malacañang opposed such a mechanism because it would lead to a substantial increase in water rates.

Manila Water's Aquino said there were other provisions in the company's contract with the MWSS that would allow it to make up for losses from debt servicing.

One provision involves a "rate-rebasing" scheme. With this mechanism, a fixed fee will appear on the water bills of Manila Water and Maynilad customers to account for the two firms' debt-related and other extra operating expenses.

This is the chance for Manila Water and Maynilad to pass on to consumers some operating, capital maintenance and investment expenditures. These expenditures may include "Philippine business taxes and payments corresponding to debt services" on $800 million in MWSS debts absorbed by the concessionaires and new loans over the last five years.

SBMA sees ₱8B in new investments in 5 years

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority said yesterday it would attract at least P8.5 billion worth of investments annually up to 2005 largely from property development projects.

SBMA chair Felicito Payumo said investors' interest in the Subic Bay Freeport, a former US naval base, would further improve in the next few years as the agency shifts the development and management of key areas to the private sector.

Payumo said the development of two port projects, expansion of an existing port and construction of a 90-kilometer Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road were expected to enhance Subic Bay's allure as a viable investment site.

The SBMA is projecting total investments of at least $850 million (P42.5 billion) from 2001 to 2005, which is 30 percent of what the agency has generated since taking over Subic Bay in 1992.

At least 55 percent of the projected investments would come from foreign investors.

The bulk of the investments, or P3.5 billion a year, would go to real estate development projects, particularly for hotel-resorts, a convention center and an eco-tourism development project.

An estimated P3 billion a year would go to information technology projects, tourism and utility concerns. Roughly P1.81 billion in new investments would go to manufacturing concerns.

These investments are expected to create 12,500 new jobs by 2005 and exports are likely to more than double to $2.1 billion by 2005 from $1 billion this year.

Payumo said it was important for the SBMA to bring investments with greater economic impact through more aggressive and more targeted marketing and promotion techniques.

MultiTel appeals SEC order

MULTINATIONAL Telecom Investors Corp. has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to lift a cease-and-desist order stopping the company from accepting investments from the public.

In a cease-and-desist order it issued last month, the SEC said it discovered that MultiTel had been illegally issuing securities to the public.

MultiTel, a company authorized to extend loans from funds borrowed from only 19 lenders, is currently under SEC investigation for accepting investments or borrowing from the public beyond the scope of its charter.

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Properties Inc. has denied reports it plans to enter into a joint venture with Cyber Bay Corp. to develop a P30-billion coastal bay project along Manila Bay.

* * *

EEI Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 8, 10 a.m., at Club Filipino in San Juan. Stockholders of record as of March 31 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

DUE to the recent acquisition by **Philip Morris of Nabisco Co.**, the exclusive distribution agreement between Nabisco and **Alaska Milk Corp.** will be terminated effective April 1.

* * *

PHILEX Mining Corp. has announced the election of SSS president Vitaliano Nañagas II as a director. Also, Education Secretary Raul Roco resigned from the company's board of directors. Elected to replace him was Barbara Anne Migallos

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. has denied it had any information that could explain the 39.13-percent drop in its share price, which fell from 11.5 centavos to 7 centavos per share.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

DOE, Japan ink ₱33-B electrification project

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with the Japanese government for a P33.5-million demonstration project that would light up three remote barangays in Leyte.

A 65-kilowatt micro-hydropower system will be installed in Mahagnao, Cansiboy and Logsongan in Burauen, Leyte.

The project is expected to benefit about 200 households.

"This is directly in line with the DOE's thrust to pursue rural electrification and to promote new and renewable energy source," Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

National Electrification Administration chief Manuel Luis Sanchez earlier said there were about 8,500 barangays all over the country that had yet to have electricity.

Most, if not all, of these barangays are in far-flung areas, making it uneconomical to connect to main electricity grids.

"This is difficult to imagine in the 21st century, but it is a reality that must be addressed," Camacho said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, March 19, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	68.5	69	153,900
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	240
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	51.5	50.5	51.5	26,900
First E-Bank Corp.	2	2	1.96	1.96	25,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	68.5	72.5	67	72.5	2,800
Metropolitan Bank &,Trust	219	220	218	220	18,560
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	500
Philippine National Bank	44	48.5	44	48.5	347,800
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	11,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	20,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.35	0.35	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1210	1195	1210	2,960
Sun Life Financial Serv.	875	875	835	845	1,380
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	42	42.5	42	42	18,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.51	2,320,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	1.62	2	1.62	2	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	725	700	715	17,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	4,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	31,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	760	790	760	790	51,510
Ivantage Corp.	1	1	0.95	0.98	220,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.06	169,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	45	47	45	47	2,700
Manila Electric Co. B	56	56	54.5	55	678,900
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.64	1.7	3,427,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.82	0.86	0.82	0.86	310,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.08	1.08	1.02	1.08	2,875,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	260,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	380,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	12	90,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	35	35	34	34.5	128,700
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	30,000
RFM Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	15,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	48.5	47	48	77,900
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	53	52	53	100,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	846,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	6,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.75	12	1,400
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	70,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	9,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.28	0.31	0.27	0.29	550,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.55	2.65	2,560,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	2,080,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.02	1.06	1,401,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.5	175,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	130,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	253,500
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	640,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.78	0.79	5,440,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.49	0.51	5,630,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.5	0.52	590,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,620,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.55	2.55	295,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.1	8,500,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber A	4	4	4	4	23,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	113,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.5	0.5	2,470,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.6	0.61	0.59	0.61	4,360,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	300,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	19.5	18	18.5	9,100
Philippine Racing Club	4	4	4	4	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	42	42.5	42	42	160,700
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	530,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	700	700	700	700	500
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	7,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	10,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	4,941,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	750,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.1	1.98	2.06	17,428,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1	1	1	870,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.33	0.37	0.32	0.37	730,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.07	0.07	6,500,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,545,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	450,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	75,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	13,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	8,700,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.0825	900,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	811,940	38,337,950.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	236,843,710	175,992,990.00
PRO	33,544,000	75,503,060.00
Mining	88,270,000	587,500.00
OIL	14,600,000	213,300.00
GRAND TOTALS :	374,069,650	290,634,800.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	600.83	UP 4.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,062.33	UP 13.52
PRO	558.61	DOWN 8.33
Mining	1,215.82	DOWN 11.87
OIL	1.65	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	726.05	DOWN 7.59
Composite	1,507.52	UP 9.20

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 52; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 31; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 99; NO. OF TRADES: 2,065

CURRENCIES

Mar. 19, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.114206	1.000000	48.6270
Japan	Yen	0.009066	0.008137	0.3957
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594318	1.430900	69.5804
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142850	0.128208	6.2344
Switzerland	Franc	0.651582	0.584795	28.4368
Canada	Dollar	0.710455	0.637633	31.0062
Singapore	Dollar	0.627368	0.563063	27.3801
Australia	Dollar	0.550416	0.493998	24.0216
Bahrain	Dinar	2.955611	2.652661	128.9909
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297090	0.266638	12.9658
Brunei	Dollar	0.626909	0.562651	27.3600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000097	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.025300	0.022707	1.1042
UAE	Dirham	0.303367	0.272272	13.2398
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000774	0.0376
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.897500	43.6427
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.458884	22.3142
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136823	6.6533
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.407268	19.8042
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065224	3.1716
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022248	1.0819
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000464	0.0226
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150949	7.3402
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004477	0.2177
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005394	0.2623
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022248	1.0819
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.13959	55.4148

RP exports rose to $2.89B in Jan.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES posted a $417-million trade surplus in January amid minimal export growth and a sharp contraction in imports, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

Export receipts rose 6.3 percent from the previous year to $2.889 billion while import spending fell 6.8 percent to $2.472 billion.

Due, however, to the high import content of the country's top exports such as electronics and computer parts, the slowdown in imports would pull down the export numbers over the next two months.

Analysts said the waning imports showed the vulnerability of the local economy to global economic slowdown, as the Philippines depended on the robust economies of the US and Japan to support the semiconductors and computer manufacturing industries.

The faster-than-expected slowdown in the US and other global economies accompanied by a rapid decline in the growth of electronics demand have cast a pall of gloom over the export industry that was dominated by electronics and semiconductors.

Electronic components accounted for 18.7 percent or the biggest bulk of the total import bill last January, amounting to $463 million or 35.4 percent lower than $716.52 million in 2000.

Emilio Neri, an economist at Abacus Securities, said the year-on-year fall in January imports showed business confidence was lacking.

"This is an indication that recovery is taking a while to pick up," he said. "This means capital spending is not yet there. So there is a large gap between what businessmen are saying about renewed confidence and what they're doing," Neri said.

Gunther Hecker, country director of the Asian Development Bank for the Philippines, on the other hand, said the Philippines should find new markets for its products and develop new sources of export receipts to offset the effect of declining US and Japanese economies.

Hecker, however, believed that the country would not revert to a trade deficit this year despite a slowdown in the US economy.

Aside from electronics, major imported items included:

- mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials which ranked second with a 12.1-percent share, accounting for payments worth $298.64 million or a 19.9-percent increase over last year;
- telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery which ranked third with a 10.2-percent share, accounting for purchases worth $251.51 million or a 20.1-percent increase from last year;
- industrial machinery and equipment, accounting for 6.3 percent of the total bill, ranked fourth as payments reached $155.90 million, down by 6.8 percent.

Capital goods accounted for 39.7 percent of the total import bill, followed by payments for raw materials and intermediate goods, mineral, fuel and lubricant and consumer goods.

Japan remained the country's top sources of imports, accounting for 20.2 percent of total bill, followed by the US with a 17.1-percent share. Other top sources were Singapore, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Germany, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

COUNTRY SHARES
As of March 20, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	1,900,000/2.1M	2,000,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	350,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	500,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000*	150,000/170,000*
FANTASY WORLD	-	Please call
FONTANA D/C*/B**	120,000*	92,500/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	290,000	300,000/420,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000*	450,000/525,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C (with lot)*	400,000	415,000/2,000,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000	-
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	850,000/900,000*	-
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000	180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600,000**	330,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	130,000	140,000/Please call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	250,000
RIVIERA A/B*	240,000	280,000/420,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	13[illegible]00/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.	Please call	Please call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC GOLF	490,000	495,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,100,000	-
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	870,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	200,000
VALLEY GOLF	330,000	350,000
WACK WACK	8,500,000	-

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Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay and Southwoods
Buying: Rockwell studio apartment with share

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Global slowdown seen to delay RP recovery

(From page B1)

investment growth rates than the Philippines in 2000," the study said.

"While the installation of the new government should provide a strong boost to confidence, long-standing issues have to be resolved. One is the need to upgrade infrastructure, an area where the Philippines has been lagging behind most of its neighbors," it said.

Other East Asian countries are likewise expected to suffer slower economic growth. Malaysia's growth rate is expected to be affected by about 2.4 to 2.9 percentage points ; Korea, by 1.5 to 2.2 percentage points, and Indonesia and Thailand by 0.6 to 1.6 percentage points, respectively.

"The downside risks are much greater now than half a year ago," Iwasaki said during the media briefing.

Iwasaki said the external risks could also temper the return of foreign investments into these countries, although direct investments have shown considerable resilience in the wake of the Asian crisis.

"Net inflows of private capital into these countries are projected for 2001 for the first time since the crisis," the report said.

Iwasaki also said, "these five countries are now much less vulnerable. The financial sector's vulnerability is lower, external payment positions are stronger, there is greater coherence in macroeconomic policy frameworks and a more balanced growth," Iwasaki said.

"The situation is expected to improve in 2002 when the affected countries will probably grow by 5 percent," he said.

In the Philippines, the report said that concerns over domestic political conditions have receded. It, however, noted that the new administration has yet to present a comprehensive economic program that will resolve past problems and put the economy on a higher growth path. *With a report from AFP*

Budget deficit beats estimates

(From page B1)

allegations, has repeatedly pledged to make the budget deficit her top priority. She has promised to cut spending and increase revenue, moving to sell even luxury cars and other perks enjoyed by senior bureaucrats under previous administrations.

The government credited tighter spending for the lower-than-target budget gap in the two-month period.

Earlier, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo had blamed the political crisis caused by the Estrada administration for having stunted growth in businesses activities in the country which resulted in lower tax revenues.

Romulo said the government would try to increase revenue collection by aggressively running after delinquent taxpayers.

The finance chief said the government is working double-time to contain the deficit to P145 billion or lower. "We are on track and we hope we can sustain this," Romulo said. *AP*

Stocks

(From page B1)

dismal, showing that most investors remained cautious, waiting for more positive signals from the economic and corporate fronts before committing funds to the market.

Last-minute buying saw the 33-share composite index climb 9.20 points, or 0.61 percent, to close at 1,507.52 points, also the day's high. Traders said the market saw strong support at around the 1,480 level, prompting some local players to take up selected blue chips. But the broader All-Shares Index lost 7.59 points, or 1.03 percent. to end at 726.05.

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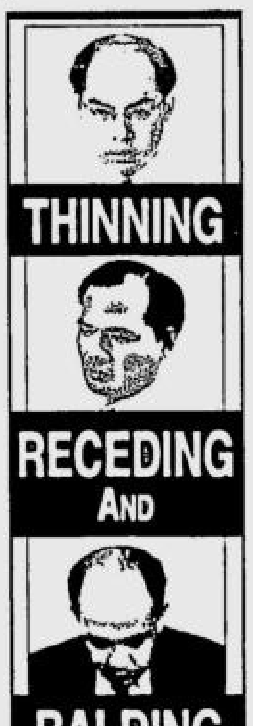
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6th ANNUAL MAP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
The New Economy
Purpose, Process and People
(Going beyond strategy, structure and systems)
20 March 2001, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel

Opening Plenary: THE NEW ECONOMY
Keynote Address
Mr. JAIME AUGUSTO ZOBEL DE AYALA II
President, Ayala Corporation
Second Plenary: PURPOSE
Role of Board of Directors in the New Economy
Dr. JESUS P. ESTANISLAO
President, Institute of Corporate Directors
CEOs as Role Models in the New Economy
Mrs. CORAZON S. DE LA PAZ
Chair and Senior Partner
Joaquin Cunanan & Co./PricewaterhouseCoopers
Young Leaders React
Mr. JOSE P. DE VENECIA III
Chair and CEO, Broadband Philippines
Dr. FRANCISCO S. SANDEJAS
Vice President, H & Q Asia Pacific Ltd.
Facilitator: Prof. MARIO ANTONIO G. LOPEZ
Assistant Dean, Center for Development Management, AIM
Showing of Hewlett-Packard Video on "Cool Town"
Remarks on the Video
Mr. NILO PAUL NEPOMUCENO
Pre-Sales Technical Consultant
Hewlett-Packard Philippines
Third Plenary: PROCESS
Entrepreneurial Process (empowerment)
Integrative Process (collaboration/teams)
Renewal Process (lifelong learning - to reckon with new technology)
Mr. FRANCISCO I. FERRER
Group President, Integrated Microelectronics, Inc. (IMI)
Mr. ANTHONY GATT
Managing Director, SAP Philippines
Mr. ROBERT COOK
Manager for Financial and Strategic Planning
Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Ms. DITTAS FORMOSO
Director for Consulting, Microsoft Philippines
Facilitator: Ms. BARBARA C. GONZALEZ
President, J. Romero and Associates
Fourth Plenary: PEOPLE
Sourcing of People/People Competencies in the New Economy
Mr. REYNALDO A. EVIDENTE
President, iPeople, Inc.
Transforming People
Mr. MICHAEL L.Y. CHUA
Instructor, Information System and Computer Science Department
Ateneo de Manila University
Mr. RICHARD FRANCIS
Managing Director, Microsoft Philippines
Managing and Motivating Geeks and Mavericks
Mr. AUGUSTO C. LAGMAN
Chair and President, Systems Standards, Inc.
Facilitator: Prof. MARIA NIEVES R. CONFESOR
Professor, Asian Institute of Management
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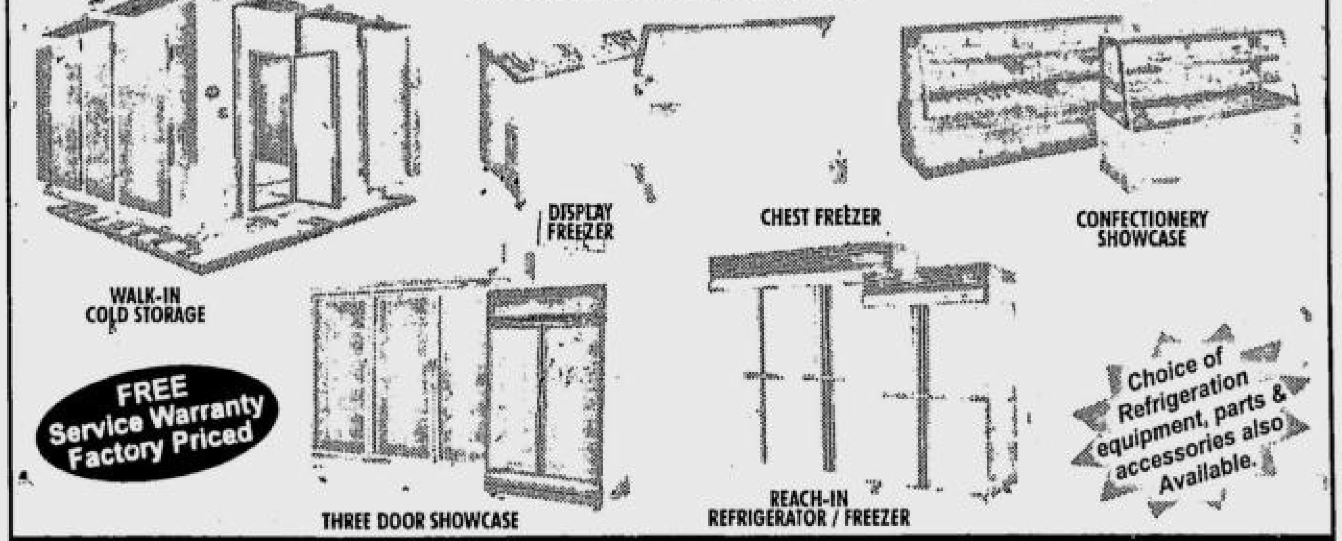
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3 years of NPPAP and getting stronger

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF OIL DEREGULATION- FUELING THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Members of the New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines (NPPAP) renewed their commitment to help the government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in its drive towards accelerated economic recovery by way of providing quality fuel at competitive prices and opening the door to more opportunities for the new entrepreneurs.

This pledge was made as NPPAP celebrated three years of Oil Deregulation in the Philippines under Republic Act 8479, also known as the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation of 1998".

Resolute Character

Oil Deregulation has once again proven that the Filipino is great in adopting a concept - yet because of his resolute character when challenged, he usually emerges with a better and much improved version of the original idea. This is particularly so due to the dedication of the New Players who have collectively and individually committed to see through to the successful implementation of Republic Act 8479.

Only three years old, Oil Deregulation in the Philippines has already overtaken its Thailand model. For example, the New Players have made significant inroads in aviation fuel, industrial accounts, and LPG bulk marketing. In the 1999 tender to supply petroleum to NAPOCOR, the New Players have managed to win bids and earned 5.5% of this market. This is respectable showing. considering that Thailand took about 5 years to achieve the same market share as the Philippines has in barely 2 years. Participation of the New Players in the bid has driven down prices by more than 20%. These savings will of course result in lower energy generation costs, eventually benefiting industries and other retail users.

Based on November 2000 report, the New Players have already cornered 16.3% of total share in the industry domestic and international demand, compared to only 9% of about a year ago. This superb performance is not surprising considering that the New Players have to date invested more than P11 Billion in various infrastructure and other marketing activities.

The inroad of a bigger market share naturally translates into big savings for a lot of users; especially the bulk buyers since prices of the New Players are generally lower than those of the Big Players. In the long haul, this will definitely result in a faster and more efficient economic recovery for the country and bring about substantial relief to the general public as well.

Healthy Competition

The era of competitive fuel prices is of course not surprising. In fact, it is mandated by law. In spirit, Republic Act 8479 was meant to ensure a truly competitive oil market of fair prices and an adequate and continuous supply of environmentally clean and high quality oil products.

One immediate benefit of Oil Deregulation is a mushrooming in strategic locations of more than 200 new retail gas outlets, mostly from the New Players, thus igniting healthy price competition among all sectors. This naturally redounds to direct consumer benefit not only in terms of lower retail prices but also of improved service.

New Entrepreneurs

But aside from stable fuel prices which has resulted in lower cost of petroleum prices compared to the countries, Oil Deregulation has brought about other benefits to myriad of sectors. For one, thanks to oil deregulation, even small business entrepreneurs can now open up gas station to serve smaller communities -- making fuel affordable and accessible to small users like tricycles and jeepneys even in far-flung towns.

These new entrepreneurs can contribute to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's economic recovery program on the grassroots level.

The NPPAP leaders are elated over an earlier statement of Mrs. Macapagal Arroyo upon her assumption to office expressing her full support for oil deregulation. The Association similarly welcomes the appointment of new Department of Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho whose professional competence and integrity is beyond doubt, and whose adherence to market economy and support to the Oil Deregulation Law has been fully expressed in his public statements.

Indeed, with the country now in an upbeat mood because of renewed economic activities, NPPAP, realizing that petroleum is a major component of any country's growth, has given assurances that it will continue its role in providing quality fuel while promoting fair market pricing beneficial to the consumers, wherever they are, whoever they are.

GMA INDUCTS NPPAP OFFICERS. Then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo administered the oath of office of the Officers and Directors of the New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines led by NPPAP President Fernando L. Martinez. With her eventual assumption of office as President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Association has renewed its pledge to help in Mrs. Arroyo's drive towards accelerated economic recovery by providing petroleum products at competitive prices.

Taking its mission to greater heights with the new government.

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New Players	No. of stations
Eastern	22
Flying V	50
SeaOil	40
Total Petroleum	39
PTT Phils.	12
Unioil	11
Others	105
Total	279

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- 1920 - Work hand in hand with pioneers in aircraft, motorcycle and motor car
- 1935 - ***"Patent Castrol"*** Lubricant emerged
- 1938 - completely re-developed the originally vegetable oil-based product into entirely mineral-based
- 1941 - CC Wakefield died at age 81
- 1950 - **Castrol** had operating companies throughout Europe
- 1955 - **Castrol Oil, Inc.** was established in U.S.A.
- 1957 - branches in Brazil and Pakistan were established
- 1966 - Burmah Oil acquired **Castrol** to form Burmah Castrol
- 1993 - **Castrol Philippines** was established
- 1996 - Exhibition corner ***"The Castrol Story"*** in Swindon
- 1999 - 100th Anniversary
- March 14, 2000 - BP Amoco offered US$4.7 Billion
- July 10, 2000 - **Castrol** shareholders approved BP Amoco's offer to acquire
- Nov. 20, 2000 - Day 1 of integration
- Burmah **Castrol** now part of BP Amoco, a US$200 Billion company with 100,000 personnel worldwide
- Popular brands in the Philippines are GTX, CRD, GTD, SLX

Coastal

SUBIC BAY DISTRIBUTION, INC.

Subic Bay Distribution, Inc. (SBDI) is the joint venture undertaking of The Coastal Corporation of Houston, Texas and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT).

Coastal ranked 235th in the 1998 Fortune 500 and 10th among the top petroleum refining companies in the world, with over $11.6 billion in operating revenues. Based in Houston, **Coastal** is a diversified energy company with subsidiary operations in natural gas marketing, transmission and storage, petroleum refining and marketing; oil and gas exploration and production; coal, chemicals, trucking and independent power production.

PTT, on the other hand, is Thailand's largest wholly-owned energy company, with long experience in petroleum marketing and distribution. It has financial resources of US$7 billion and is that country's largest oil corporation.

The PTT/**Coastal** group, thru SBDI, aims to provide superior value to Philippine motorists with network service stations providing high quality products and services at reasonable cost. The group will also provide Philippine business with its bulk fuel requirements at highly competitive rates.

SBDI has storage facilities in Subic and Clark Air Base with combined capacity of 3 million barrels. Two terminals are also in place in Pandacan and Pasig to service Metro Manila customers.

Coastal Subic Bay's port facilities offer very flexible conditions. The 844-foot pier can handle vessels from 300 to 120,000 metric tons. The famous deep harbor is well-sheltered and centrally located to supply Asian markets; short sailing time makes for efficient and consistent delivery of customer requirements in various cargo sizes. Also, the port's close proximity to major international shipping routes allows the PTT-**Coastal** joint venture to provide competitive bunkering services.

Clearly, Subic Bay's superior location provides a less congested option for refueling than other South Asian ports.

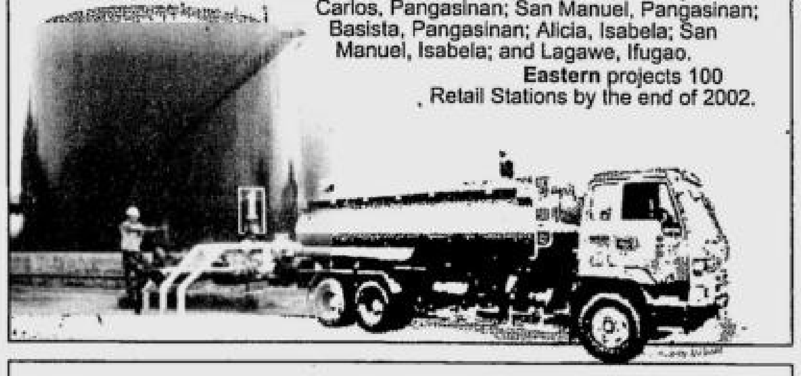
EASTERN

EASTERN PETROLEUM CORPORATION came in at the time when the local oil industry was shifting course, specializing in the provision on high quality and environment-friendly products to the Filipino people.

Eastern initially supplies low sulphur fuel oil, industry fuel oil and automotive diesel oil which aids in the lowering of cost of electricity for both government and independent power producers. With the completion of its Oil Terminal in 1997, **Eastern** started marketing diesel oil and bunker fuel oil to wholesale customers. Its bulk plant has berthing facilities spanning 96m and can accommodate barges up to 1,100 DWT capacity. Its strategic location in Pasig City accounts for **Eastern**'s efficient distribution advantage, and coupled with a dependable transportation facility, allows **Eastern** to literally be there come rain or shine.

Today **Eastern** has a retail network of gasoline stations in 22 locations located at Parang, Marikina City; Navotas, Metro Manila; Molino, Bacoor, Cavite; Aniban III, Bacoor, Cavite; Banlic, Cabuyao, Laguna; Parian, Calamba, Laguna; Pakil, Laguna; Lucban, Quezon; Malolos, Bulacan; Baliuag, Bulacan; Bo. Sapang Putol, San Ildefonso, Bulacan; Brgy. Parian, San Ildefonso, Bulacan; Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Muñoz, Nueva Ecija; Cabiao, Nueva Ecija; Talavera, Nueva Ecija; San Carlos, Pangasinan; San Manuel, Pangasinan; Basista, Pangasinan; Alicia, Isabela; San Manuel, Isabela; and Lagawe, Ifugao.

Eastern projects 100 Retail Stations by the end of 2002.



FLYING V

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FLYING V

FLYING V - Slowly but surely making its presence felt on the Philippine landscape- thanks to deregulation.

In 3 years time, gas stations of the new independent companies have mushroomed, providing the consumer with more choices at lower prices.

We believe that this condition redounds to the benefit of the consumers so long as RA 8479 and its implementing rules and regulation are untouched, so as to motivate the new independents into continuing their investment programs for expansion. With this, prices in the industries cannot be dictated, because the new independent players harness market forces to ensure their competitive stance, keeping prices as low as possible, while garnering their share of market.

This is a business environment that affirms the commitment of independents like **Flying V**, enabling them to compete head on with the majors to the ultimate benefit of the consumer.

LIQUIGAZ

PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

LiquiGaz Philippines Corporation is a wholly owned company of SHV Energy N.V. of the Netherlands, the world's biggest market of LPG. Operating through local brands, SHV trades in various countries in Europe and Asia, including the Philippines. The company has an unrivaled experience of over 65 years marketing LPG for thousands of applications. And with resources, talent and energy, **LiquiGaz** can develop and improve LPG utilization throughout the country.

LiquiGaz is confident that demand for LPG in the Philippines will grow to levels experienced in Europe and North America. After all, LPG is the clean, versatile and safe fuel that can be used anywhere in the country, at any time. LPG displaces wood, coal, kerosene and oil --- dramatically reducing the level of pollution and curbing the dangers of de-forestation in the process.

LiquiGaz has already made significant investment in the necessary infrastructure to support a safe and reliable operation. The **LiquiGaz** 45,000 sqm. Hyatt Terminal Complex in Mariveles, Bataan, for example, is one of the largest LPG storage facilities in the world. This has tankage of 12,000 tons and is accessed through a four bay truck-loading gantry capable of simultaneous loading operations. Investments will continue not only in vehicles, cylinders, tanks and other specialist equipment, but also in training and developing staff and distributors to give the best expertise and the most professional customer service possible.

LiquiGaz knows that customer confidence is at the core of any business, which is the reason why the company is actively working with government and industry to raise standards whenever possible. The benefits of LPG can be realized both at home and in the workplace.

PETROLINO

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Lino C. Ceriola, President

PETROLINO is a registered brand name of petroleum products supplied and distributed by **3N2J Shipping Trading and Services**, Inc., a company actively engaged in bulk supply of fuel products to large industrial consumers. It also provides bunkering for services to domestic and foreign vessels in Manila and nearby ports.

3N2J is a five-year-old company backed by people experienced in the fields of petroleum supply and distribution, and marine transport. It has the ability to mobilize supply of between 15 to 20 million liters of petroleum per month, its product having been refined, processed and blended according to strictest international standards and priced more comparatively than most oil distributors.

At present, **Petrolino** has transhipment, transportation and storage facilities and marketing networks in Subic Bay, Metro Manila, Batangas City, Legaspi City, Bacolod City and Cebu City. Distribution networks and marketing structures are also being organized in Mindanao, particularly in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Iligan and Davao. Ultimately, these new structures will evolve into stronger distribution hubs to support networks of bulk distribution system and clusters of gasoline stations that will bring competitively priced petroleum even to the remote islands and barangays of our country.

PRYCEGAS

Pryce Gases Inc. (PGI), a subsidiary of **Pryce Corporation**, is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of industrial and medical gases, as well as the marketing of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) under the trade name PRYCEGAS.

Organized in 1987 to primarily engage in the production and sale of industrial gases, **PGI** now has a total of eight (8) oxygen plants and six (6) acetylene plants that boasts a total production capacity of 4,800 cylinders/day of oxygen and 1,800 cylinders/day of acetylene. Its LPG line, **PRYCEGAS**, born in 1996, currently enjoys strong market leadership and is available in 6-kg., 11-kg., and 50-kg cylinders.

PGI is in the final stages of expanding 22 LPG Bulk Terminals and Refilling Plants (with a combined storage capacity of 6.590 MT), 22 lorries and delivery trucks---all to reach more people in the Visayas and Mindanao area. The refilling plants will be strategically located at varying storage capacities from 40 MT to 1,700 MT, with the first 7 already operational. It also has 26 industrial gases sales outlets and over 2,000 Prycegas sales outlets, an indication that **Pryce Gases Inc.** is well on its way to outpace other industrial and medical gas producers by the turn of the century.

PTT

SUBIC BAY DISTRIBUTION, INC.

PTT Philippines, Incorporated (**PTT** is the acronym for ***Petroleum Authority of Thailand)*** is a wholly owned overseas subsidiary of Petroleum Authority of Thailand, a publicly owned and the largest oil company in Thailand with intensive and diverse international operation in the South and Far Eastern regions of Asia.

Over a period of 10 years, or by about year 2007, the company plans to have 250 service stations operational in the Philippines.

Petroleum Authority of Thailand, thru **PTT Philippines, Inc.**, is also looking for future possible joint ventures or 100% equity in the field of oil exploration in refining, LPG/LNG refinery and distribution in the country and in the ASEAN region. This initiative and the four other oil related joint ventures with a large US based oil company will transform the Philippines, which is strategically located in Southeast Asia to become an ***oil hub*** in the regional in the coming years.

PTT Philippines, Inc. is committed to bring a fair competition in the oil industry that would result in better quality, price and service that will directly benefit the Filipino consumers at the same time invigorating and bringing new opportunities to the company.

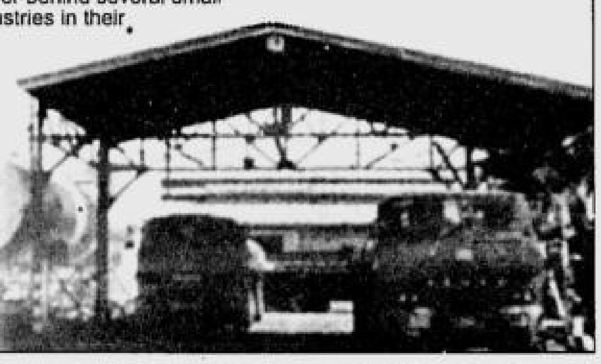
RAMBI

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

RAMBI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION began in the late 1970's as a trading firm selling industrial solvents used in coconut oil processing and as raw materials for industrial chemicals. By 1982, it branched out into the treatment of Bunker Fuel Oil and with the successful operation of its first plant in Muntinlupa, soon sales of RAMBI's new product line began to overtake that of its traditional line.

At present, **RAMBI** carries **Rambi Fuel and Diesel Oil** and other fuel products. It also provides after-sales services such as computerized boiler testing, professional technical assistance, and other equipment and facility assistance And in order to fully meet the service requirements of its industrial clients, **RAMBI** has set up Hyper Transport, its trucking division, to take care of its hauling needs.

RAMBI aims to recognized as the best service-oriented marketer, distributor and provider of quality petroleum products and allied services. Currently, it has begun a fleet upgrading program and started expanding its service horizon to cover Central and Southern Luzon, and soon the Visayas and Mindanao areas. Now by its 28th year, **RAMBI** has embraced the new dynamism brought about by the deregulation, and continues to serve as the power behind several small and medium industries in their common march towards a progressive Philippines.



SEAOIL

SEAOIL PETROLEUM CORPORATION was born primarily in response to a need for non-traditional fuel sources during the latter part of the 1970's. From wholesale dealership of petroleum products, the company later on engaged in formulating special blends of bunker fuel and lubricating oils. It also pioneered ***Prolube***, a world-class line of engine, gear and industrial oils manufactured under the strictest quality control standards using the highest grade materials.

A dynamic company, **Seaoil** seeks constant improvement in order to deliver better products and services to its customers. Its first depo facility in Mandaluyong, opened in 1980, now serves as the company's main distribution point and is the location of the lube oil blending facility. It has also set up plants in Batangas--housing 20 vertical and 8 bullet type tanks, 3 LPG and 4 multiple product loading bays--Guimaras and Bacolod in order to tap immense potentials in Luzon and Visayas.

In addition, **Seaoil** has 40 stations already operational, with the Vehicle Instant Protection (VIP) Shop as its most recent service innovation. Indeed, these efforts have enhanced the company's reputation in providing total customer satisfaction, putting **Seaoil** at par with the biggest and the best.

TOTAL

TOTAL Petroleum Philippines Corporation was established in August 1997 and had targeted an investment of US$130 million for the first five years of operations. Out of its 100 stations planned by year 2003, the company has already put into operation 39 conveniently located in various parts of the country.

TPPC is part of TOTALFINAELF, a company formed in 1999 by the merger of TOTAL S.A. (itself founded in 1924 inFrance), the Belgian petrochemicals giant FINA, and ELF Aquitaine. With this merger, TOTALFINAELF became the 4th largest oil and gas company. It is first in Europe and operates a 20,000-service station network in more than 100 countries including the Philippines.

TOTAL Petroleum Philippines Corporation is largely considered to be the "emerging major" among new players in the local oil industry by virtue of its involvement in the whole spectrum of industry activities. These include importation and fuel terminal operations, and whole and retail channels of trade in products ranging from fuels and lubricants to LPG. **TPPC** is also ready to supply all major expressways and the aviation industry.

TOTAL intends to make its service stations showcase of clean environment and classic French flair for friendly service and style. The stations all feature the TOTAL Convenience Store (*La Boutique*) which serves, aside from snacks and refreshment, varied items such as car accessories, films, magazine and even personal care products. All outlets are required to observe the strictest standard for environmentally-friendly materials and equipment, designed to provide clean and safe services.

TOTAL's vision is to be the oil company in the Philippines which cares the most.

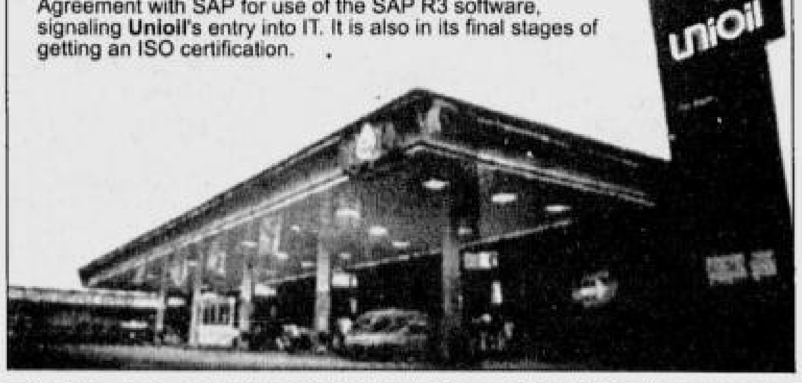
Unioil

The **Unioil Group** is known as a highly reliable supplier of a wide range of petroleum products, currently carrying diesel, gasoline, base oil, distillates and other base-oil related products. It also market the world renowned Idemitsu and Veedol brands and its very own Unioil.

In 1998, **Unioil** developed a Franchising Program for its service stations; 11 are currently operational, and 50 being targeted by 2003. It has also tapped the Kapisanan ng Kooperatibang Pangtransportasyon ng Pilipinas, Inc. as partners in putting up cooperative filling stations, 10 sites already identified as pilot areas.

Oilink was created as a spin-off of **Unioil**'s oil trading segment, and is all geared up to take market share from the three majors. Its Bataan storage plant is being expanded to accommodate an estimated 250 million Barrels. Pier facilities are likewise being renovated. Last December, Napocor awarded **Oilink** 70 million liters of its fuel requirements, representing the 2001 first quarter requirements, and accounting for 20%of the total awards

Unioil Group recently concluded a license Agreement with SAP for use of the SAP R3 software, signaling **Unioil**'s entry into IT. It is also in its final stages of getting an ISO certification.



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Camiling, Tarlac
Telephone No.: (045) 934-0216
E-mail: tca@mozcom.com

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

NOTICE OF SEARCH & CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees formally and publicly announces that the Tarlac College of Agriculture (TCA) Presidency is now open. Interested applicants are hereby advised to apply to the Search Committee for the next TCA Presidency headed by CHED Regional Director Remigia Nathanielz.

c/o Ms. Eleonor Imbang
Office of Commissioner Mona D. Valisno
Chairman, TCA Board of Trustees
DAP Building, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Must be a Filipino citizen;
2. Has earned a doctoral degree in the field of Agriculture and other related disciplines;
3. Must have five (5) years relevant managerial and administrative experience;
4. Has no prior conviction-civil/administrative/criminal cases.

APPLICANTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

1. Comprehensive Resumé
2. Mission and vision for Tarlac College of Agriculture
3. List of accomplishments in previous administrative and managerial positions
4. NBI, Ombudsman and Police Clearances and disclosure of all administrative and criminal cases

Applicants are requested to submit seven (7) of their formal applications and certified supporting documents not later than **March 31, 2001**.

(PDI – March 20 & 22, 2001)

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AT:HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
Bldg. #7 VRCC Road, Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila
ON: Thursday, 22nd March 2001 at 10:30am Prompt
ON VIEW: Wednesday, 21st March 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and. if subsequently found qualified to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY** and/or **INSTALLATION** of:

Package 002-2001: 5 – MVA SUBSTATION ACCESSORIES AT MADAPDAP RESETTLEMENT (R.V. 390)
Package 003-2001: NEA Subsidy for expansion of DX Line at Santa Rita

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga, Pampanga from **March 20, 2001** to **March 26, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 P.M. on **March 27, 2001.**

Pre-Qualification meeting is scheduled on **March 28**, at 10:00 AM at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

All pre-qualified bidders may obtain the necessary bid documents after paying a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) Main office at San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga starting March 28 to April 3, 2001.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II – PBAC

(PDI – March 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Generation X

Q. Who coined the term 'Generation X?'

A. The term, which describes a group of people born between 1961 and 1972 typified by a college education, dissatisfaction with career opportunities, and pessimism, arose after the title of a book by Douglas Coupland, *Generation X.* Coupland explained that the term comes from the final chapter of an amusing sociological book on class structure in America entitled *Class* by Paul Fussell. Coupland said, "In his final chapter, Fussell named an "X" category of people who wanted to hop off the merry-go-round of status, money, and social climbing that so often frames modern existence. The citizens of "X" had much in common with my own socially disengaged characters; hence the title."

Ooops! Charles Barkley, the outspoken ex-NBA star, was furious. He had been badly misquoted in a book about his life and career, titled *Outrageous.* So the outraged former MVP immediately tried to stop the publishers from putting out the offending book. Just one small problem: *Outrageous* was Barkley's own book — his autobiography.

Classified Odd. The people of Turkey went to bed in the year 1344, and when they woke up it was 1926 -- but they were alive and well. On December 31, 1925, Turkey was going by its old calendar, which adopted the Julian months but kept the Muslim era. The government ordered a complete change to the Christian era that night, so when Turks awoke the morning after, they had grown 582 years older.

Past Forward. This day in 1990: Former First Lady Imelda Marcos stood trial in New York City for fraud.

WORD WATCH

Macrophobia (mak roh foh bi uh): fear of long waits.

PDI--March 20, 2001

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID PRINTING OF PEA ANNUAL REPORT

PEA is inviting printing firms to submit pre-qualification documents for the bidding of 2000 PEA Annual Report, which shall highlight PEA's accomplishments for the year.

Interested parties may acquire pre-qualification forms from the Office of the Chairman of the PBAC, 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City starting **20 March 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00.

The duly accomplished pre-qualification documents must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. **29 March 2001** at the Office of the Chairman of the PBAC, 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The PEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality and to award to the bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ARMINDA A. ALARAS**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--March 20, 25 & 28, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)
Asiatrust Bank Building 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 1104

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bidding Date	April 6, 2001
Pre-Bid Conference (WFFC Conference Room)	March 21, 2001 (9.00 a.m.)

Rental of Copier Machines
Janitorial Services
Security Services
Technical Supplies

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using **TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM** to be opened publicly at the Conference Room of the Weather & FLood Forecasting Center (WFFC), DIC Building, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid requirements will be issued at the PAGASA Records Section, 4th Floor, ATB Building, 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the company's TIN on March 19, 2001

Bidding documents will be issued by the BAC Secretariat from March 21-23, 2001 at the Records Section, 4th Floor, ATB Building.

Only eligible bidders shall be invited to the Opening of Bids on April 6, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the WFFC Conference Room PAGASA DIC Building, Agham Road, Diliman Quezon City. Bids should be accompanied by a 2.5% Bidders Bond in the form of Cash Manager's Check or GSIS Bond.

All inquiries concerning this invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman PAGASA-BAC

The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason of its own, waive any formality therein when necessary and to accept complying offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ELLAQUIM A. ADUG
Chairman PAGASA-BAC

(PDI -- March 17, 2001)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF RE-BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 104,000 MT (2,080,00 BAGS) 10% MOLSO Milled U.S. Rice, Grade No. 2, Four (4%) percent broken maximum at the indicative prices of:

a. Ex-Vessel Php 18.70/kg or 935.00/bag
b. Ex-Pier (FOT) Php 19.00/kg or 950.00/bag
c. Ex-Warehouse Php 20.00/kg or 1,000.00/bag

on **March 23, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the Boardroom, 10th floor, 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

A pre-rebidding conference shall be held on **March 21, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling or ricemilling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable Metro Manila Bank.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **March 19, 2001** at DMO OCD, 5th floor from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-15-72 and 712-17-08.

Bidding documents will be available on **March 21, 2001** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure a pre-rebidding/re-bidding shall be conducted on at 2:00 PM at NFA Boardroom on **28** and **30 March 2001**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – March 16, 19 & 20, 2001)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
PNPC Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104/845-3060
Fax Nos (632) 845-3090
Email: opr_serv@pnoc-ec.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites accredited contractors to submit sealed bids for the:

CONCRETING OF ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE CANAL AT ENERGY SUPPLY BASE
BX 01 653

Bid documents shall be available for issuance to accredited contractors starting March 26, 2001 at the above address.

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Contracts Group not later than 2:00 p.m. of April 20, 2001 at the above address and then shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

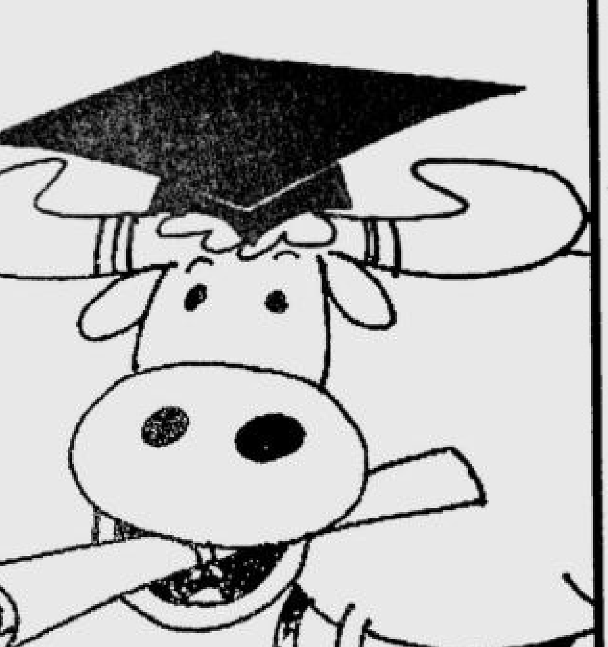
For the purpose of clarifications, a pre-bidding conference and site inspection will be conducted on April 4, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at Energy Supply Base at Brgy. Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas.

PNOC-EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI – Mar. 20, 2001)

SUCCESS!



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DOMINADOR S. PONGOS

Born August 10, 1915
Died in the Grace of the Lord
on March 18, 2001.

His loving and bereaved wife, **PINING**, his children, **BUDDY, OMMIE, BABY, DINGKY** and **JINGJING**, their wives and husband, grandchildren, relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with us at his return to our Creator.

His remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Chapels. Holy Mass will be celebrated everyday at 7 p.m.

Interment will take place on Thursday, March 22, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Rd., Parañaque after the 1 p.m. Mass at Don Bosco Chapel.

PIO G. MANUEL DE CASTRO III

Lover of Life
Film and Art Critic
Actor and Director of Film, Stage and Television
Award-Winning Director of Television Commercials

4 May 1943 - 18 March 2001

His wife **JOY**; his parents **Pio Sr.** (†) and **Elena** (†); his brothers and sisters **Helio Sr.** (†) and **Victoria, Thelma** and **Vicente** (†), **Fr. Pio, SJ** (†), **Estrella** and **Teodo** (†); his father-in-law **Juan Rodriguez Soler** (†) and mother-in-law **Esperanza Villavert Soler**; his in-laws **Miel** and **Ted Lapus**; his nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the kind readers to pray for his eternal rest.

Pio's remains have been cremated. Relatives and friends may pay their last respects at the Christ the King Mortuary at Greenmeadows, Pasig City where a Mass, will be held nightly at 8:00 starting Monday, 19 March 2001 till Wednesday, 21 March 2001.

A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, 22 March 2001 at 9:00 AM at the same venue.

Our Dearly Beloved

Constancia de la Paz Arnaldo

Peacefully joined her Creator on Saturday, March 17, 2001 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved children **Carlos Arnaldo, Cecilia Gutierrez (Ching), Mario Arnaldo**; grandchildren **Martin Arnaldo, Carminia Gutierrez, Marlowe Gutierrez, Charlie Arnaldo**; together with her brothers, sisters and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 115 B Gonzales, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2:30 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

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Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

ENGR. JAIME Y. ROMERO

of Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Former DPWH Regional Director

Who joined his Creator on March 04, 2001

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

> *"I am the resurrection and life.*
> *He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;*
> *and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
> **John 11:25-26**

Our Dearly Beloved

Samuel U. Soriano Sr.

of #14 Baltazar Subdivision, Paniqui, Tarlac

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 17, 2001 at the age of 68.

His loving wife **Angelita**; children and in-laws **Rhodora** and **Damaso Armas Jr.**, **Catherine** and **Pedro Fernandez II**, **Samuel Jr.**, **Joseph** and **Dalisay**, **Astrid Vivette**, **Angelito** and **Glenda** and grandchildren, **Frank Lloyd**, **Kelvin Jan**, **Frances Alessa**, **Carlo Luis** and **Thea Angelica**, brothers, sisters and relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in #14 Baltazar Subdivision, Paniqui Tarlac. Interment will be announced later.

Our Dear Mommy

Generosa Divinagracia Hernandez

Of Novaliches and Sibulan, Negros Oriental
Born on July 17, 1907
Passed away peacefully on March 18, 2001

Her loving family: husband **Marcelino** (†); her children: **Meneleo** (†) and **Yoli**; **Isabelita**; **Paz** and **Bayani Diaz**; **Victoria** and **George Jensen**; and **Marcelino, Jr.** and **Rena** request relatives and friends to join them in prayer for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Forest Hills Funeral Homes, Quirino Highway. Interment at Forest Park Cemetery will be on Thursday, March 22, after Holy Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church at 2:00 p.m.

A holy life does not end in death,
It goes on for all eternity.

HONORATO R. TAN

Chairman, Mga Anak San Abuyog Inc.
Former Governor of San Leyteño Sto. Niño Shrine

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 16th day of March 2001 at the age of 72.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Filipinas, J.P. Rizal, Makati City.

Interment will be on March 24, 2001, 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque

---

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

Defensor urges thrift banks to boost housing program

HOUSING and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike T. Defensor has called upon the Chamber of Thrift banks to continue their cooperation with the government shelter sector and help mobilize resources for the housing sector during its annual convention.

Defensor made the appeal in his speech during the opening of the annual convention of the thrift banks where he discussed the role thrift banks play in moving the government's housing program forward.

The HUDCC chief was guest speaker at the convention, along with the Bangko Sentral governor and the trade and industry secretary.

"I understand that last year the chamber pledged to use some P22.65 billion of your excess liquidity to support the government's housing programs. I hope that pledge still holds," Defensor told the representatives of thrift banks from all over the country.

He said the Macapagal administration would need all the help the thrift banks could provide in the administration's determination to push for the implementation of its housing program.

The HUDCC chief also enticed the thrift banks to participate in the improved multiwindow lending scheme (MWLS), which offers more lending windows and affordable financial schemes for end-user financing.

He said the MWLS provides development financing to private real estate developers that are short of financial resources to develop housing units and subdivisions.

"This is the most viable setup given the financial and organizational constraints of government," Defensor asserted.

The HUDCC chair has introduced several measures to ensure that funds are available for potential homebuyers and for housing development projects.

These include the establishment of a finance group for housing and the operationalization of the secondary mortgage market, Defensor said.

LATEST MALL DEVELOPMENT

Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Land Corp.'s latest mall development was recently topped off at the mall's fourth level, a significant event that marks the structural completion of the project. Shown, counter clockwise, are engineer Diego de Guzman, general manager, LKS Construction; JB Balbin, project engineer, RLC; Joe Curaming, resident construction manager, Asian Technicon Management Inc.; architects Lilian Gobot and Richard Garcia, project engineers, G&W Architects; Tommy Lee O, vice president for complex administration, RLC; architect Nicky G. Villanueva, VP-corporate property planning department, RLC; Robina Gokongwei, SVP, Robinsons Department Store; Minda V. Carpio, VP-lease, RLC; and Eddie Lim, chief operations officer, general contractor-LKS Construction. Robinsons Place Novaliches, located on Quirino Highway in Quezon City, is the site of the country's first Big R Supercenter.

Firm opens first wood showrooms

IF you want great and innovative ideas on how to use wood to embellish your homes and offices, come and visit the one-of-a-kind showrooms of Matimco Inc., a company known for its quality wood products in the market today.

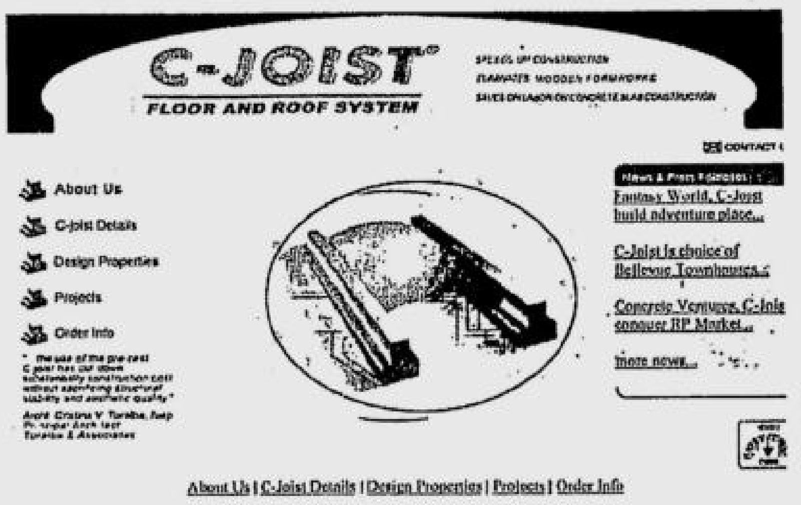
Exclusive wood showrooms are not a common sight in Asia and the United States. The Matimco showrooms are the first of its kind in the country. As an added convenience to its customers, the showrooms are staffed by professional architects and interior designers who are ready to advise homeowners and contractors in choosing the right wood products and their various interior applications.

Matimco's product consultants have been trained extensively about the unique characteristics of wood. They can also advise clients on proper wood installations and maintenance.

The Matimco showrooms are specially designed to be informative and user-friendly. Even first time homeowners who may have limited knowledge about construction, especially about wood, will easily understand the displays and products in the showrooms.

Display modules detail the beauty and strength of every Matimco product line. Product models were created to provide beyond the traditional "three-dimensional view" in showcasing the different wood products. In addition to being able to visualize the various wood products, customers will also be able to experience how wood "feels" when applied and installed in various ways.

For a "unique" wood experience, visit any of the following Matimco showrooms: 5th floor, Building A at SM Megamall, Ortigas Center; Anson's Arcade, Pasay Road, Makati City; 4th floor, Festival Supermall, Alabang, Muntinlupa City; and Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu. Matimco products can also be viewed online at www.matimco.com.



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BUILDERS and contractors are invited to visit the CVG website.

Concrete Ventures Group improves website

CONCRETE Ventures Group Inc., makers of the C-Joist floor and roof system, has a new and improved website at www.c-joist.com.

In the new domain name, a dash ("-") has been added, thus it is now "c-joist." Builders and contractors are invited to visit the CVG website.

The site is more interactive. It features a "Message from the Chairman" by Concrete Ventures Group chair and CEO Charlie V. Gorayeb. It has more examples of the various structures that have used the C-Joist floor and roof system in the past nine years of the brand.

The website also has a space to accommodate architectural plans sent by e-mail in Autocad format.

New e-mail addresses are: inforf@c-joist.com, finance@c-joist.com, sales@c-joist.com and production @c-joist.com. However, the old e-mail address is still functional.

The C-Joist precast, prestressed, reinforced concrete joists are used in the construction of a wide range of residential and commercial buildings, schools, offices, hospitals, shopping malls, condominiums, parking buildings and warehouses.

C-Joist is a popular flooring and roofing slab construction system in view of the big savings for the owners, builders and constructors through fast construction or completion of projects. It thus saves on labor costs, minimizes form works and the use of concrete aggregate materials.

Since the CVG plant in San Pioquinto, Malvar, Batangas, began operating, it has undergone several phases of upgrading and modernization. The most recent was completed in December last year. It now boasts of a production capacity of one million linear meters a year. The manufacture's main office is at the CVGI Centre in Cubao, 726-9541 to 42.

PLG News & Views

Termite terminator scores at golf, country club

WHEN a trusted pest control guy guarantees termite elimination or money back, you know he means business. Acknowledged industry authority Didi Gonzales, president and general manager of Pest Control Services Inc. knew he had the aces when he presented this win-win deal to Manila Southwoods chief engineer Dante Calanog.

When Gonzales made the bold offer to Manila Southwoods, it wasn't sheer bravado on his part. A certified termite buster for 20 years now since inheriting a 45-year-old anti-anay business from his father, Gonzales established many reforms to professionalize the industry. He is the man who designed and conducted certificate courses that have been adapted by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority for its licensing and accreditation seminars. He is also former president of the Pest Management Council of the Philippines, the Pest Control Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Professional Fumigators Inc. (Pafpi). Besides being the golf course's accredited pest control person, he is also a club member of the Manila Southwoods, which meant that the risk of losing face and the shirt off his back was very real.

Superior ammunition

The inside story, he recounts, is that earlier he was appraised that the revolutionary Sentricon System by Dow AgroSciences, a technology that has been taking the US termite control industry by storm, would soon be made available in the Philippines. When the breakthrough technology finally reached Manila, he knew he was armed with superior ammunition to wage an all-out war against the pernicious critters.

Sentricon System works by taking into account the natural behavior of termites. Bait-laced installation devices are placed around and inside the structure without ruining the property's natural landscape. The termite workers that forage for food will feed on the bait, communicate the new feeding site to other termite workers, and transfer the toxins to other members of the colony. The toxins prevent the molting of the termites, which means they are unable to grow. This causes them to die, effectively extinguishing the entire colony.

After a firsthand successful experience with Sentricon right in his own home, Gonzales was ready to take on the country's premier golf course, the Manila Southwoods.

The Manila Southwoods is a first-class golf course internationally lauded for its environmental policies. Years of hard work and dedication gave Manila Southwoods accreditation as a fully certified Audubon sanctuary, the first in Asia and the second outside North America. Since its opening in 1992, the Manila Southwoods has played host to numerous international golf tournaments, sharing recognition with Jack Nicklaus for excellence in design when the challenging par-4 10th hole in the Masters course was named one of the best golf holes in the world by Golf Magazine in the United States.

Termite protection

With the supervision of golf course chief engineer Calanog, Gonzales and his team of Sentricon-authorized technicians installed unobtrusive and odorless bait devices around and inside the Clubhouse. They likewise provided termite protection to the Manor, the Manila Southwoods hotel for visiting delegates and officials. "Four months after they installed the Sentricon bait devices, the termite infestation was stamped out," acknowledges Calanog. Today, regular monitoring is done to prevent renewed termite attacks.

Gonzales explains that the Philippines sits on the termite belt and so pest control is naturally a big industry in the country. Gonzales tells about a taxonomist-entomologist and beloved professor in UP Los Baños (where he earned his college degree) who has devoted practically her entire life studying insects. They met up recently and the professor told him that her life's work, painstakingly documented on yellowing index cards, had been attacked by termites. Gonzales admits to finding the ironic tale amusing at first but he knew that what happened was indeed most tragic. He considers it a catastrophe that future students of entomology will never get to read about the observations of his astute professor.

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Modern logistics center opens

MULTINATIONAL conglomerate Transnational Diversified Group recently opened the first phase of its latest investment in logistic services, a state-of-the-art logistics center on Airport Access Road in Parañaque City. The logistics center, which sits on a 6,000 square-meter lot and is strategically located 300 meters away from the international airport, is an ideal storage and transit facility for importers and exporters, including clients of the eight member-companies of the TDG Logistics Division.

"As companies globalize their sourcing and distribution activities, and as heightened competition forces companies to optimize inventory levels, vendor hubs for just-in-time sourcing and strategic regional distribution centers become critical to competitiveness. The new 1,000 sq.-m warehouse, in tandem with the latest IT systems and material handling technology, is an ideal setup for these applications for our clients in electronics, automotive, computer, apparel and consumer products sectors," says Carlo Severino, senior logistics manager.

"The facility's unique construction, using concrete, steal beams and insulated, fireproof panels, provides 36 x 28 meters of wide-open space, that can be configured as dedicated or multiuse facility. The 9.0-meter high clearance can accommodate up to six, full-pallet-size rack levels, maximizing storage capacity. Three levels of full-height office space can also be built within the facility. An elevated docking bay that can accommodate up to four 40-foot containers provides efficient loading and unloading capabilities," adds Andoy Perez, the center's project manager.

Future expansion plans include two more similar facilities and a multilevel office building to house various logistics companies of TDG.

Wanted: Not just decent roofs

(From page B10)

In April, May and June, the HFHP will focus on the Youth Build 2001 where students, young professionals and other youth groups take on the challenge of building 250 houses. No sites have been pinpointed yet. Golden ABC president and chair Bernie Liu is tasked to take the lead as project chair.

Standard house

The standard HFHP house has a 30-square-meter floor area. Foyers are sometimes constructed and also serve as a loft that could expand the floor area to 44 sq. m. A unit in the provinces could cost P85,000 while a 24-sq.-m unit in Metro Manila could cost P120,000.

Candidate residents for the HFHP are given 10 to 15 years to pay their mortgages at interest-free rates. They are asked to commit at least 400 hours of labor into the construction of their houses, as well as in other families' houses, to reduce labor costs. Seventy percent of the total cost per house goes to construction while 10 percent goes to marketing and administration, livelihood programs and housing projects in another country.

"If you go to our communities, they are really good people. It's just that we fear for them because the times are difficult. We need all the assistance of different sectors to come and help sustain this program. The problem is livelihood," said HFHP resource development manager Christine G. Cenal.

At present, the HFHP is assisted by NGOs in livelihood programs, a center for transformation program, and in a cooperative. Cenal said Pfizer has expressed its commitment to assist in the health programs of the communities. But she added more help was needed, as the original communities were expanding. Recently, Citibank, Caltex Philippines, the Ayala Group and Cargill Philippines, among others, had likewise expressed their support in the HFHP's 2001 target. The HFHP said it has funds to build 602 houses worth P120,000 each.

The HFHP has 27 affiliate-sites nationwide, a dramatic growth from its 11 affiliates in 1999.

Modern look of fences introduced

TODAY'S architects look beyond esthetics and seek a more enduring products suited for the Philippine climate. With the economic crunch and the fast-paced evolving era is a time when homeowners realized the harsh reality of increased expenses and after construction woes.

Woodworks and steelworks are very traditional and slowly becoming a thing of the past. PVC fences are the new trend in enclosures. They are used all over the world and will likely to be widely used here in the Philippines.

Atlanta Industries, a company that has always been the first to innovate and introduce new products made of various kinds of plastics has created a new product line devoted to PVC fences to better serve its growing clientele.

Classique PVC Fence is now available for a wide range of commercial, residential and industrial applications. Its cost efficiency makes Classique Fence the preferred choice of today's architect. Not only that it is durable, but also it does not fade or discolor and is corrosion-free and rot-free. Its material base does not attract insects or termites and has a UV (ultra violet) absorber to prevent fading, discoloring.

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

HABITAT for Humanity Philippines' take-off project for 2001 in Pinugay Estate, Baras, Rizal

Wanted: Not just decent roofs

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

MORE decent roofs above Filipino families' heads this year?

This time, says international housing developer Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc., it's not just housing construction support these local and private organizations are tapped to provide, but making new communities self-sustainable as well.

Set to add 2,400 housing units this year on top of the 3,883 homes already built nationwide in its 12 years of existence, the HFHP says it needs to get the commitment of more partner-organizations to help sustain the community development program. The program includes sustainable livelihood, a health program and population management. The HFHP says it needs all the help it can get from different sectors of society to make Habitat communities truly a success.

For the homeless

Though the HFHP has received repayments of as much as 80 percent from families settled in the HFHP communities, it fears for Habitat homeowners getting laid off from work or being incapacitated by ill health. The repayment of the HFHP houses is used as seed money to accommodate other homeless Filipinos in the "waiting list" for new homes, not to sustain an already existing Habitat community.

There are almost four million homeless families in the country.

The HFHP aims to eradicate shanty housing and give homes to the homeless. It also prioritizes Filipinos who could not get housing loans from private or government financial lenders. Its market bracket involves families who earn between P3,000 and P12,000 a month.

To date, the HFHP has been building homes at a rate of 200 per year. When former US President Jimmy Carter—the number one volunteer of HFH International—spearheaded the 1999 project in the Philippines, there was an influx of participants from private corporations that led to the expansion of the program. The HFHP built more than 500 houses in 1999 and 883 in 2000.

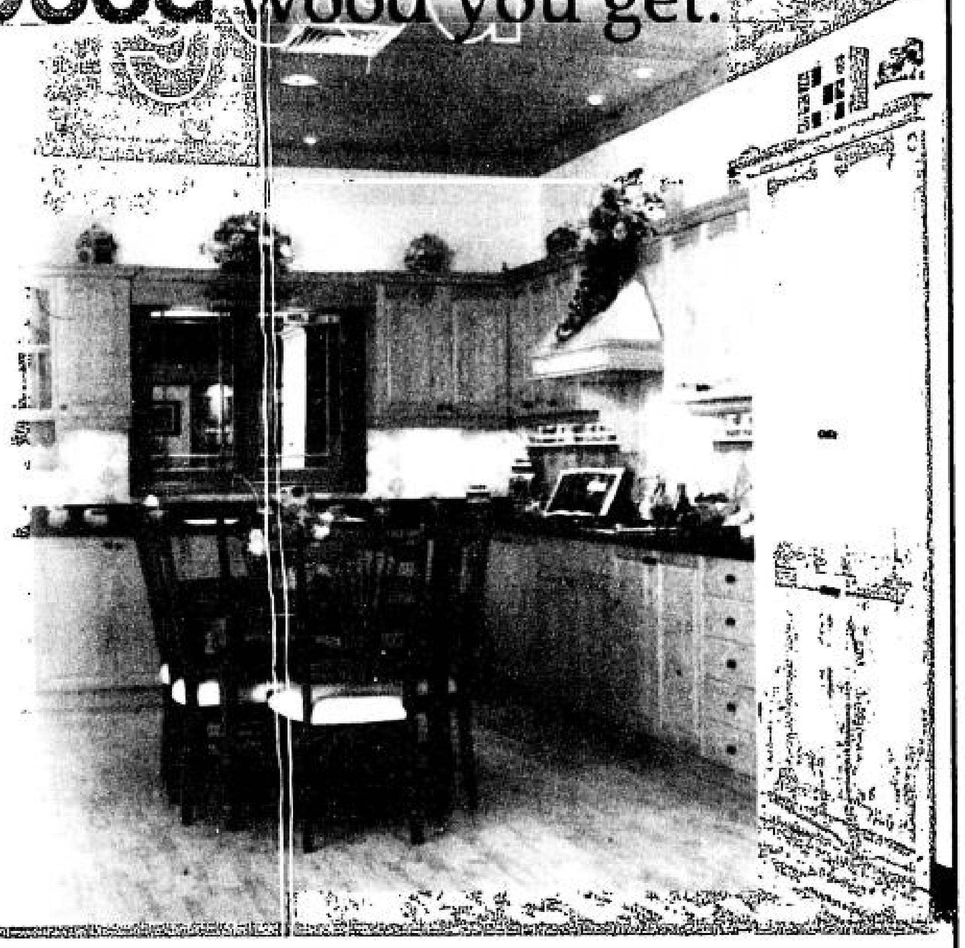
Latest project

The latest HFHP project is the Fil-Am build 2001. A group of Filipino-American volunteers came to the Philippines to donate $6,000 to build houses. A soft launch of another program was held yesterday. Five houses will be built at St. Michael's Village in Tagaytay City with the group of Ken Bensen, an American volunteer for the Carter project. Bensen is building houses in memory of his wife, who died last year. He asked good friends to donate funds to build the five houses.

On March 24 and 26, the HFHP will be building houses simultaneously in seven sites. Among these are Kalap, Zabarte, Caloocan City; Pinugay Estate, Baras, Rizal; Santiago, Isabela; General Santos City; Tagbilaran, Bohol; and Negros Occidental.

By the end of March, 56 houses would have been dedicated for the Fil-Am Build, marking the first project for the year. The Fil-Am Build goal is 100 houses for 2001. Spearheading the Fil-Am Build project is former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo.

WANTED/p.B11



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LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

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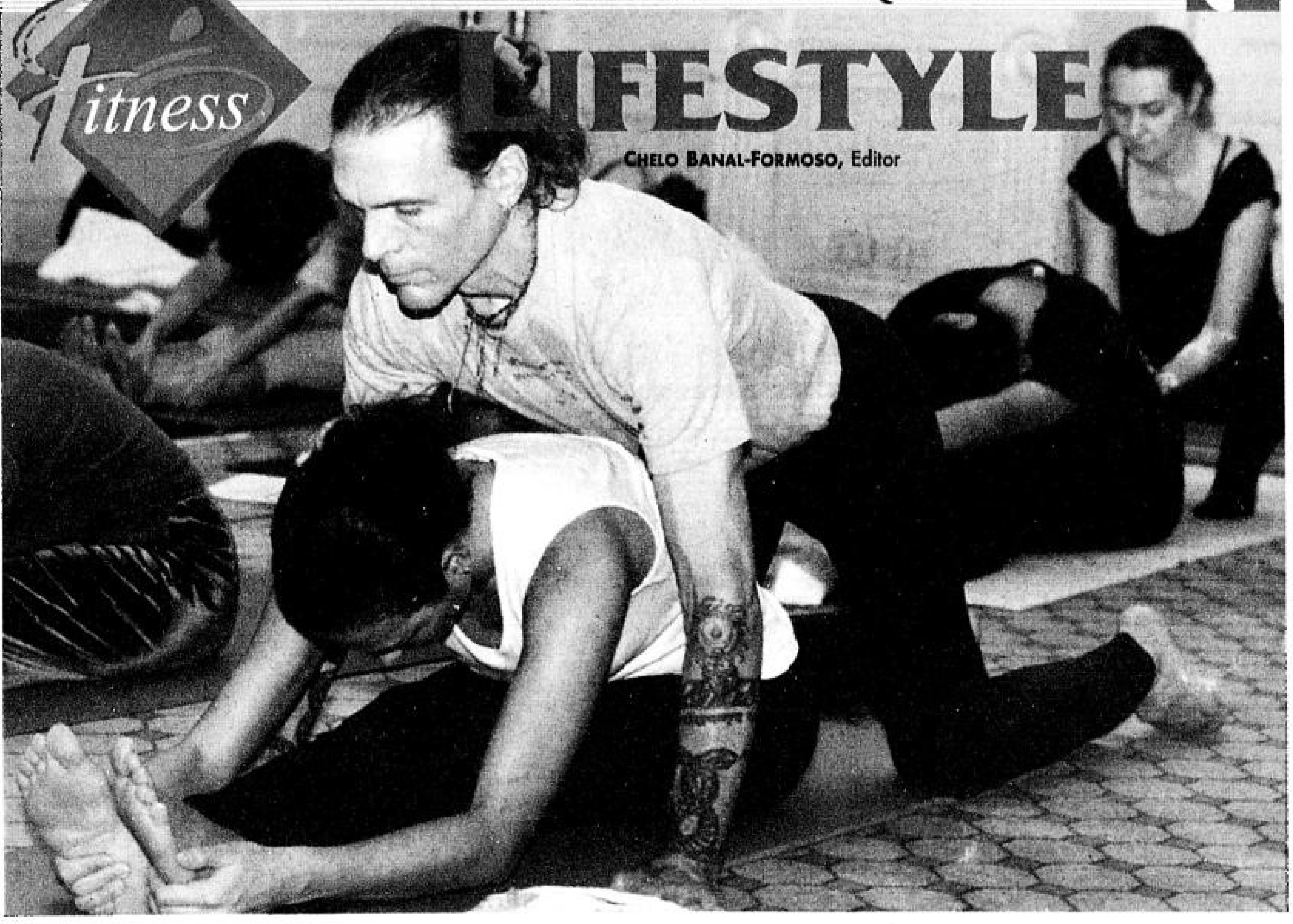

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Real strength comes from within

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ
PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

FITNESS has become a contradiction. Despite claims that exercise can release tension, when you push your body to the limits, you become fatigued. There is nothing favorable about becoming tired in this way. It is against nature to compel your body to cope with deficient oxygen combined with more levels of toxin.

Society's concept of fitness is also closely tied to the superficial ideals of beauty and self-esteem. This false logic prescribes that looking after the body will lead to attractiveness, social acceptance, success and happiness. Many have thrashed their bodies to exhaustion in order to reach their desired weight goal only to realize that the accomplishment is superficial. More attention was paid to the physical condition at the expense of the inner self, leaving them empty.

In the West, where people are weary of obsession with the body, yoga is becoming an alternative because it is gentle and it deals with both the soul and the body.

"People are interested in yoga because they're seeking the same thing that we're seeking—happiness," says yoga teacher Sharon Gannon.

David Life adds, "They're frustrated with vacuous superficial living. They want something that has depth and gives them happiness."

Celebrity students

A Catholic, Gannon studied philosophy and theology. Life was also interested in philosophy, arts, poetics and "the elevation of the mundane towards the divine."

Life, Gannon and Duncan Wong are from the Jivanmukti Center, said to be the largest yoga center in the United States. Among its celebrity students are Sting, Madonna and supermodel Christy Turlington, who developed a ready-to-wear line for yoga classes.

Life says celebrities have taken to yoga because they want to give back what they've earned. "They have been blessed with success. Sting has worked with the [preservation of the] rainforest. Madonna has so many projects. Both of them have found yoga as a way to give back. It's not so much that they're looking something for themselves. Because they are looking for a means to allow energy to move into the world that would benefit others."

Gannon adds, "It gives them real strength and independence. True self-confidence means confidence that comes from the Divine Self—that core of being which is goodness and generosity inside."

Madonna has the bravery to put out a record with Sanskrit chanting on it. Sting has the courage to walk on stage with his hands folded on a prayer and thank his audience and bows down to them.

"When they do that they inspire their audiences to be fearless and to have a different interaction with the earth," says Life.

Earth connection

Guest teachers from the Jivanmukti Center were in Manila recently to clarify the misconception of yoga. Fitness magazines have trivialized it as an Oriental exercise when, in fact, it is a lifestyle.

Life explains that yoga is the need of the times. "Our relationships to the earth, water, air, soil, to each other, with the animals are at risk. Yoga emerges in order to perfect those relationships. Yoga means union."

Gannon adds, "It's more needed right now because the earth is in a perilous condition. *Asana*—the posture of hatha yoga—means connection to the earth. Yoga is popular again because people are unconsciously awakening to the fact that they have to refine their relationship to this planet. Because of the heavy meat consumption all over the world, we are quickly depleting our resources, most of the water and grain. Forty-five percent of the earth's land mass is used to raise animals for slaughter."

The lecturers teach a complete system—meditation, *asana* (the yoga of discipline), breathing practices and ethical precepts.

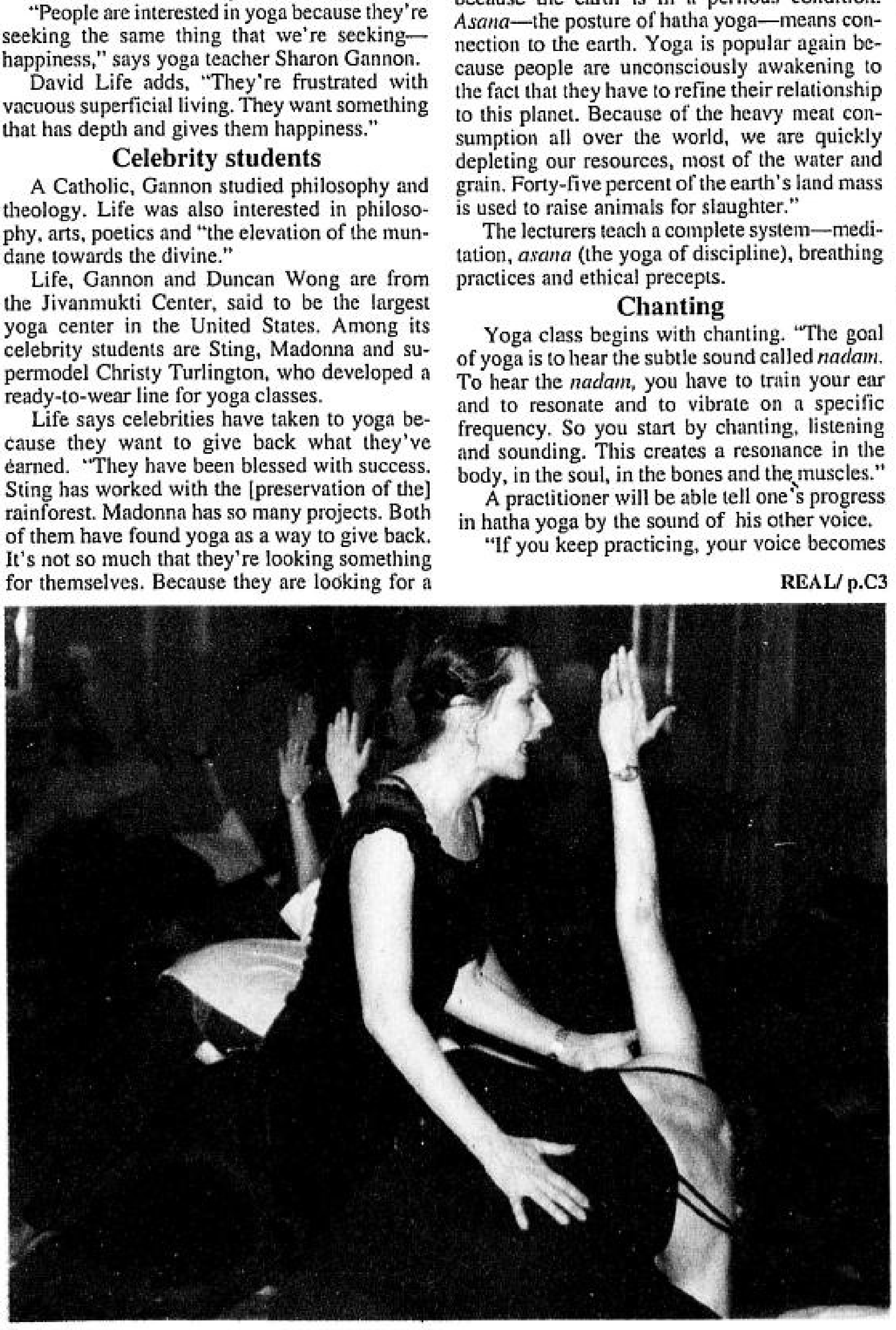
Chanting

Yoga class begins with chanting. "The goal of yoga is to hear the subtle sound called *nadam*. To hear the *nadam*, you have to train your ear and to resonate and to vibrate on a specific frequency. So you start by chanting, listening and sounding. This creates a resonance in the body, in the soul, in the bones and the muscles."

A practitioner will be able tell one's progress in hatha yoga by the sound of his other voice.

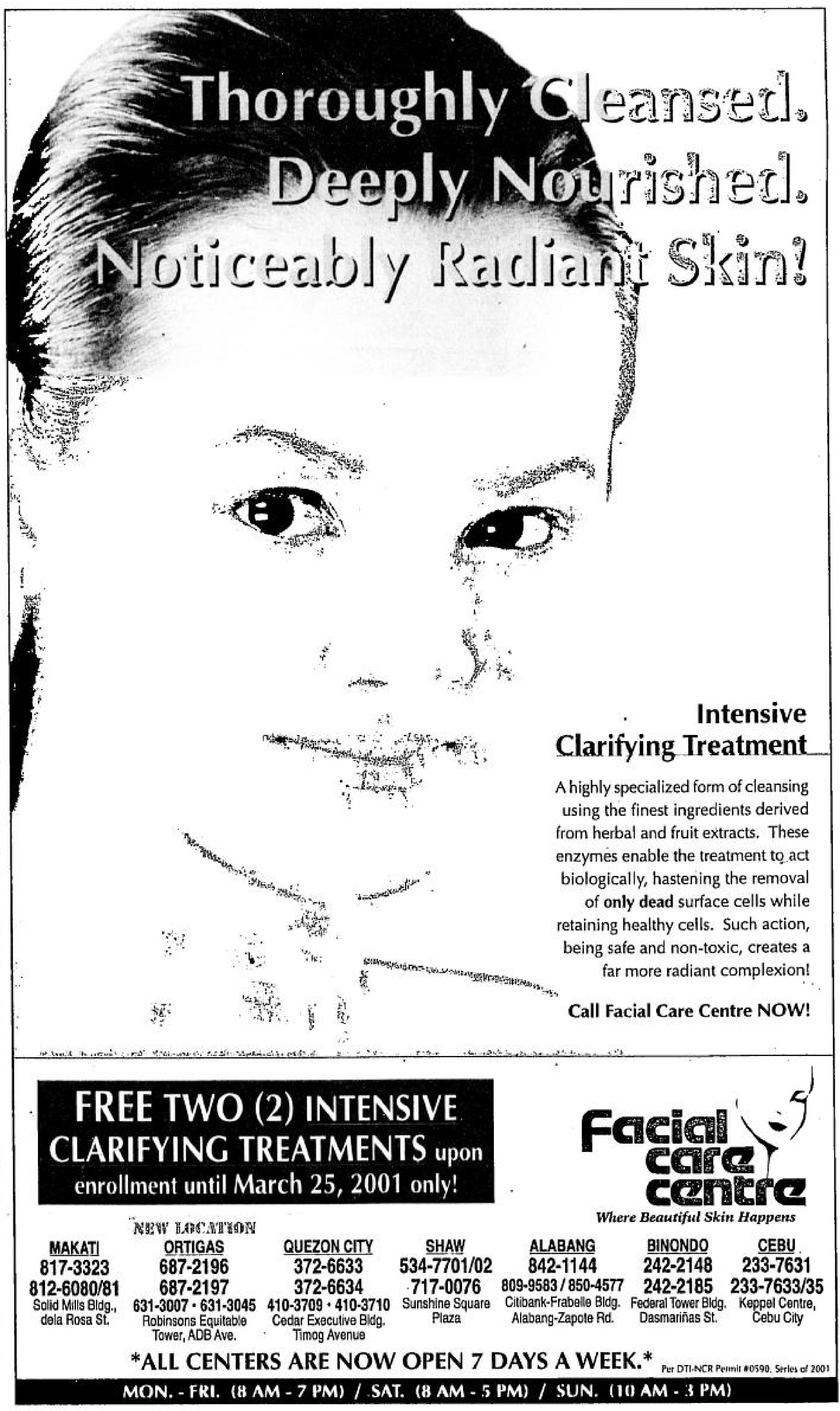
"If you keep practicing, your voice becomes

REAL/ p.C3



SHANNON Gannon at the yoga workshop sponsored by Hyatt

The Bristol Shoe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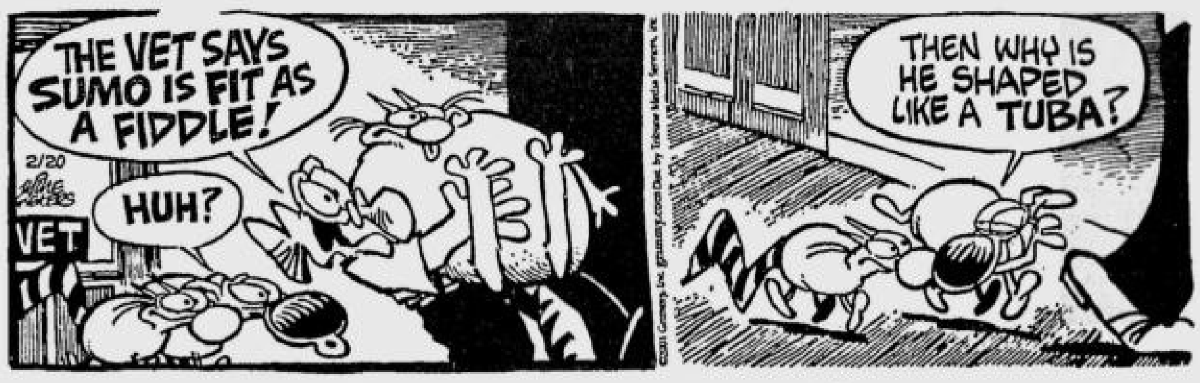
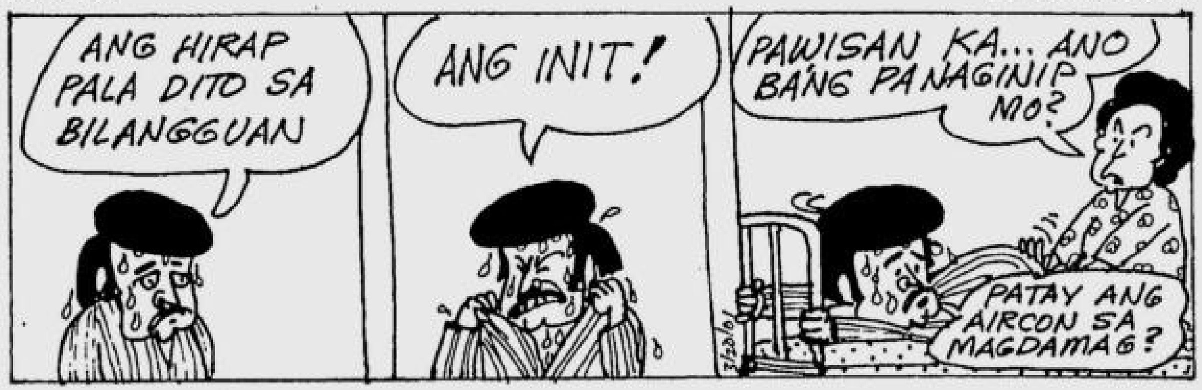
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THE VET SAYS SUMO IS FIT AS A FIDDLE!
HUH?
VET
2/20
THEN WHY IS HE SHAPED LIKE A TUBA?

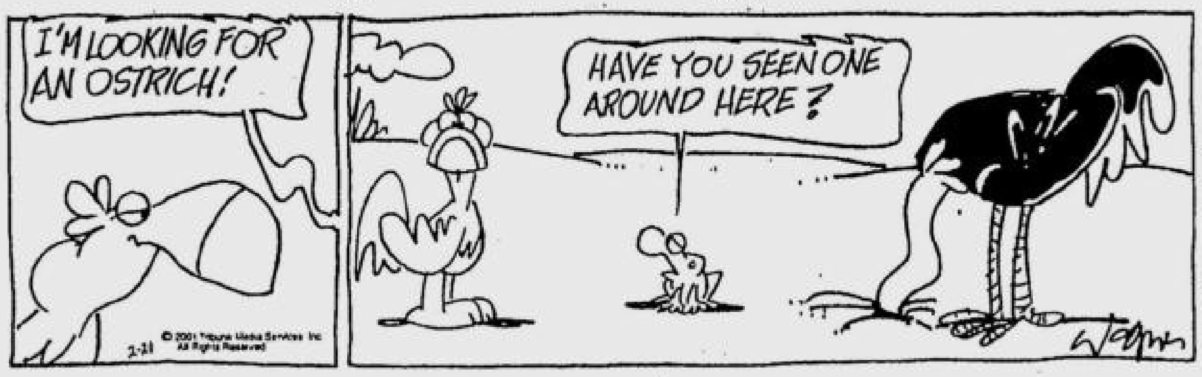
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG HIRAP PALA DITO SA BILANGGUAN
ANG INIT!
PAWISAN KA... ANO BANG PANAGINIP MO?
PATAY ANG AIRCON SA MAGDAMAG?

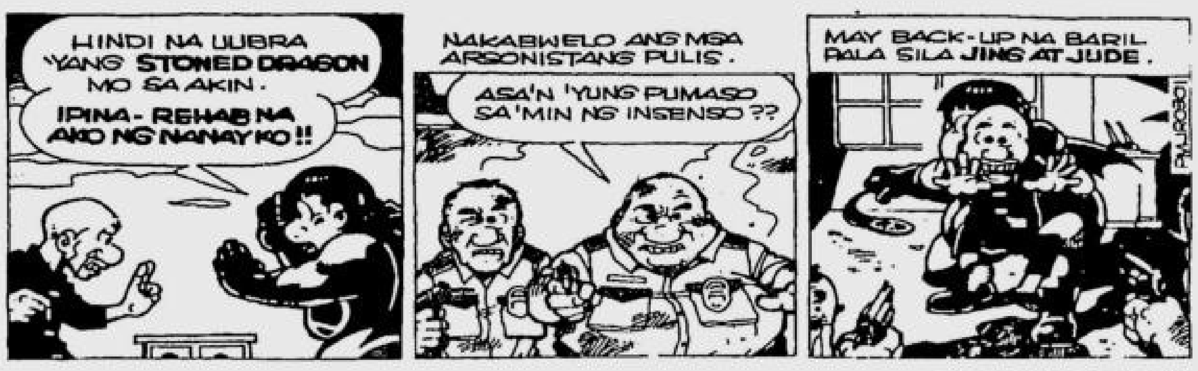
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I'M LOOKING FOR AN OSTRICH!
HAVE YOU SEEN ONE AROUND HERE?
2-21

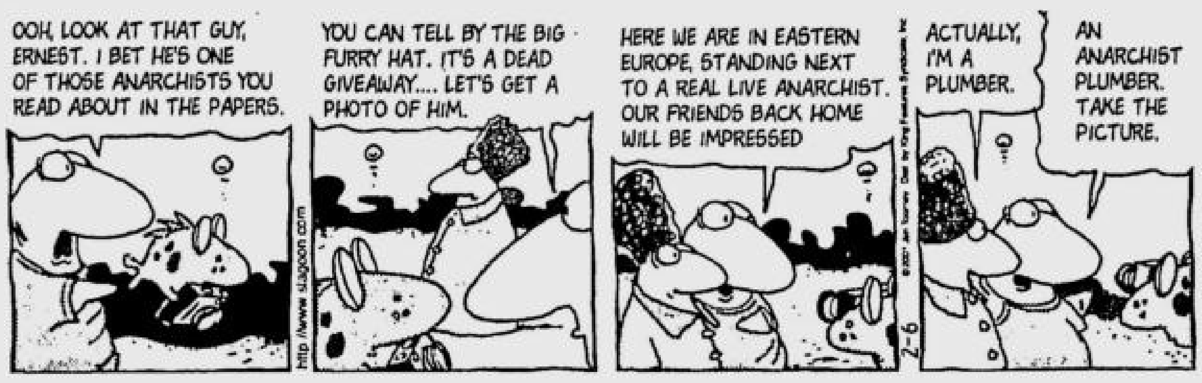
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI NA UUBRA 'YANG STONED DRAGON MO SA AKIN.
IPINA-REHAB NA AKO NG NANAY KO!!
NAKABWELO ANG MGA ARSONISTANG PULIS.
ASA'N 'YUNG PUMASO SA'MIN NG INSENSO??
MAY BACK-UP NA BARIL PALA SILA JING AT JUDE.

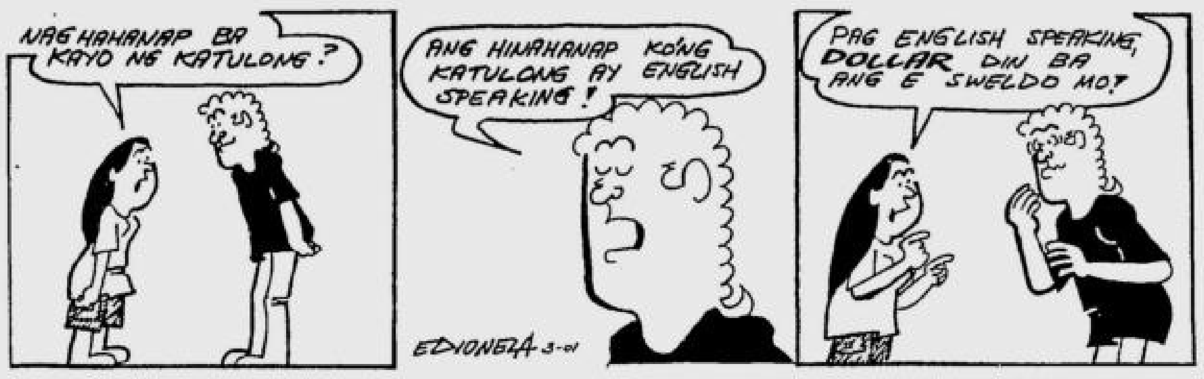
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OOH, LOOK AT THAT GUY, ERNEST. I BET HE'S ONE OF THOSE ANARCHISTS YOU READ ABOUT IN THE PAPERS.
YOU CAN TELL BY THE BIG FURRY HAT. IT'S A DEAD GIVEAWAY.... LET'S GET A PHOTO OF HIM.
HERE WE ARE IN EASTERN EUROPE, STANDING NEXT TO A REAL LIVE ANARCHIST. OUR FRIENDS BACK HOME WILL BE IMPRESSED
ACTUALLY, I'M A PLUMBER.
AN ANARCHIST PLUMBER. TAKE THE PICTURE.
http://www.slagoon.com
2-6

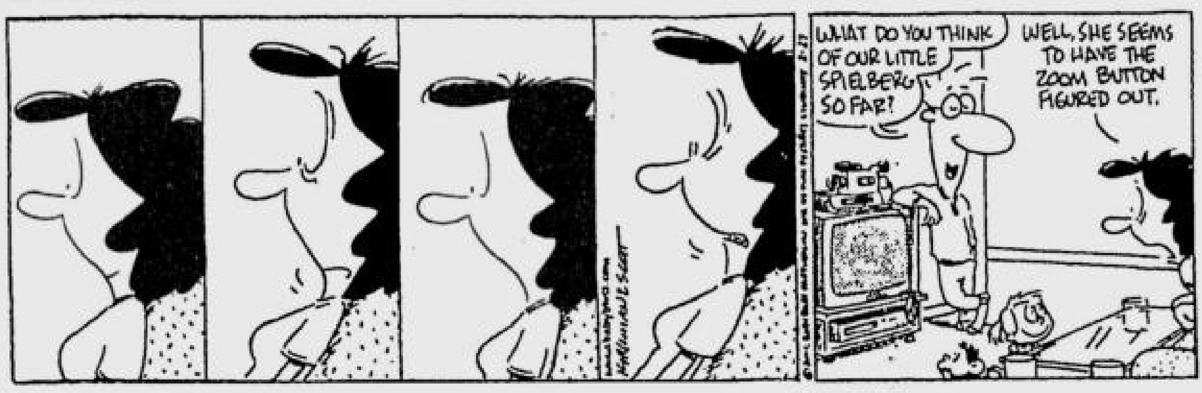
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAGHAHANAP BA KAYO NG KATULONG?
ANG HINAHANAP KO'NG KATULONG AY ENGLISH SPEAKING!
PAG ENGLISH SPEAKING, DOLLAR DIN BA ANG E SWELDO MO?
EDIONELA 3-01

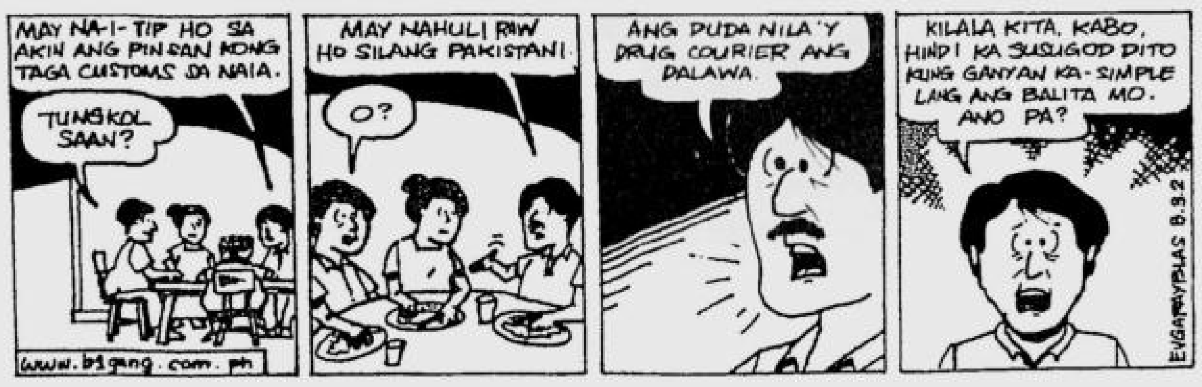
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR LITTLE SPIELBERG SO FAR?
WELL, SHE SEEMS TO HAVE THE ZOOM BUTTON FIGURED OUT.

B1 GANG

BY A.T. SANTIAGUEL/ J.E. ALCARAZ/ E.V. GARAYBLAS


MAY NA-I-TIP HO SA AKIN ANG PINSAN KONG TAGA CUSTOMS SA NAIA.
TUNGKOL SAAN?
MAY NAHULI RAW HO SILANG PAKISTANI.
O?
ANG DUDA NILA'Y DRUG COURIER ANG DALAWA.
KILALA KITA, KABO, HINDI KA SUSUGOD DITO KUNG GANYAN KA-SIMPLE LANG ANG BALITA MO. ANO PA?
www.b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carl Reiner, Mr. Rogers, William Hurt, Holly Hunter, Jerry Reed, Hal Linden, Bobby Orr, Pat Riley, Spike Lee, Tanya Boyd

Happy Birthday: Your ideas are good, so don't waste time; follow your instincts and accomplish what you set out to do. Don't let petty differences in your personal life get you down. If you go about your business, you can bypass much of the anxiety that the people around you are going through. You can make personal changes, but be prepared to live with your decisions. Your numbers: 4, 17, 20, 26, 34, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone from your past will inspire you to proceed with your usual energetic charisma. Allies will come to your aid to help you meet your deadlines.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have problems finishing what you start if you overload your plate. Try to enlist the help of others. Extravagance and time will work against you. Don't make unrealistic promises.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Educational pursuits should be on your agenda. You will learn easily from the lectures you attend and enjoy others' company. Knowledge will bring greater self-awareness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your tendency to overspend on entertainment or investments will cause problems with loved ones. Direct your efforts into furthering your career .

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Passionate encounters will be most rewarding. Make plans to spend some quality time with the one who won your heart. Your generous nature will be most appreciated.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't limit yourself. You don't have to prove yourself to anyone. Go in a direction that sparks an interest in you. You need to meet new people and pursue new activities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Leadership can be yours if you're willing to put additional work into organizations you belong to. Concentrate on making yourself the best that you can be. A new outlook is in order.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a breather. Stress and pressure at home may have worn you ragged. You have done all you can to sort things out at a personal level. Now all you can do is wait.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll meet interesting people if you attend reunions. Don't hesitate to present your ideas to those in a position to help you achieve your dreams.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Financial gains can be made if you're willing to take a bit of a risk. Go after that new position and don't let anyone tell you that you've taken on more than you can handle.

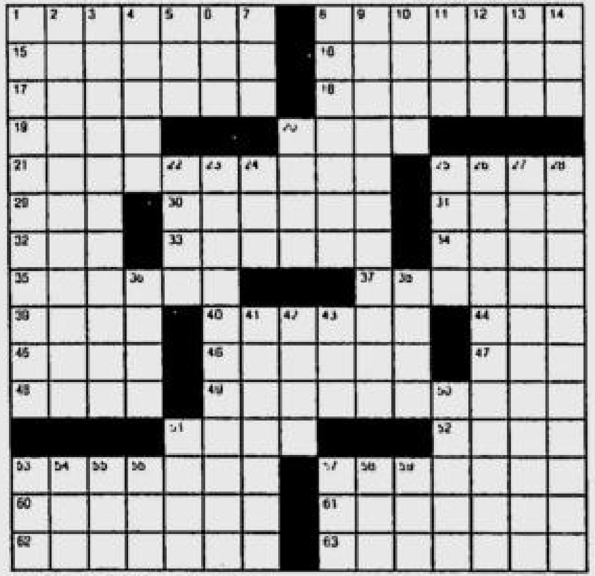
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be holding yourself back if you don't realize your capabilities. Don't confide in your peers. Your reluctance to do what they want will only cause discord.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You face delays if you haven't put all your personal papers in order. You will have problems dealing with officials if you don't play by the rules. Keep your thoughts to yourself.

Birthday Baby: You're off to the races, curious to see what's around the next corner. You are a handful for those who love you, but a very entertaining friend and confidant. You are popular, pleasant and positive.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Sheryl Scott
Akron, OH

2/3/01

ACROSS
1 Gave one's consent
8 Touchdown, e.g.
15 Word with riche or cuisine
16 Incubator occupant
17 Cooperative agreement
18 Titillated
19 Lead player
20 Religious recluse
21 Equivalent in effect
25 Clerical wear
29 Concealed
30 Brimless cap
31 Horn honk
32 Last word
33 Palliating
34 Geraldine Chaplin's mother
35 Reading decks
37 Flutist Jean Pierre
39 Footnote ditto
40 Open a purse, perhaps
44 Dam-building grp.
45 Frome's vehicle
46 Good name
47 TV oldie, "__ Ramsey"
48 Williams and Turner
49 Transient like vapor
51 Medical suffix
52 High: pref.
53 Alternative fuel
57 Escape violently
60 "A Bend in the River" author
61 Coastal wind direction
62 L.A. suburb
63 Inputs data again

DOWN
1 O.R. specialist
2 Subject to limits
3 Routine
4 Chris of tennis
5 Hibernation chamber
6 Swallow
7 Appropriate
8 Scalia of the Supreme Court
9 Put back in the mainstream
10 Sway
11 John Hancock medium?
12 Actor Kilmer
13 Goddess of folly
14 Was in first
20 Oscar-winner of 1936 Paul
22 Act as a lookout, e.g.
23 Divides up
24 NATO cousin
25 Small particle
26 Aerial maneuver
27 Saint known as "the Seraphic Doctor"
28 Cavern hangers
36 Probabilities
38 Simians
41 Conductor Marriner
42 Hot tubs
43 Sister
50 Guisewite's comic strip
51 Judah's son
53 Compass point
54 Russian chess master
55 That man
56 Mil. address
57 Qns. or S.I., e.g.
58 One to Therese
59 Fast flyer, briefly

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	L	A	E	■	D	O	H	A	■	A	M	B	L	E
C	A	R	R	■	E	L	I	S	■	H	A	R	E	M
T	H	E	A	C	C	E	N	T	■	S	N	O	O	P
S	T	A	T	O	R	■	D	U	O	■	■	A	N	T
■	I	S	O	N	Y	O	U	T	H	T	O	D	A	Y
■	■	■	■	E	P	A	■	E	M	I	R	S	■	■
O	O	P	S	■	T	R	E	■	S	P	L	I	N	E
P	R	O	P	S	■	S	A	L	■	S	O	D	A	S
S	T	O	L	E	S	■	R	I	P	■	N	E	N	E
■	■	L	I	T	H	E	■	A	R	T	■	■	■	■
B	U	T	T	H	E	S	T	R	E	S	S	I	S	■
E	R	A	■	■	A	C	E	■	C	A	T	N	A	P
A	B	B	E	Y	■	O	N	P	A	R	E	N	T	S
M	A	L	T	A	■	R	O	O	S	■	L	E	E	S
S	N	E	A	K	■	T	R	E	T	■	E	R	S	T

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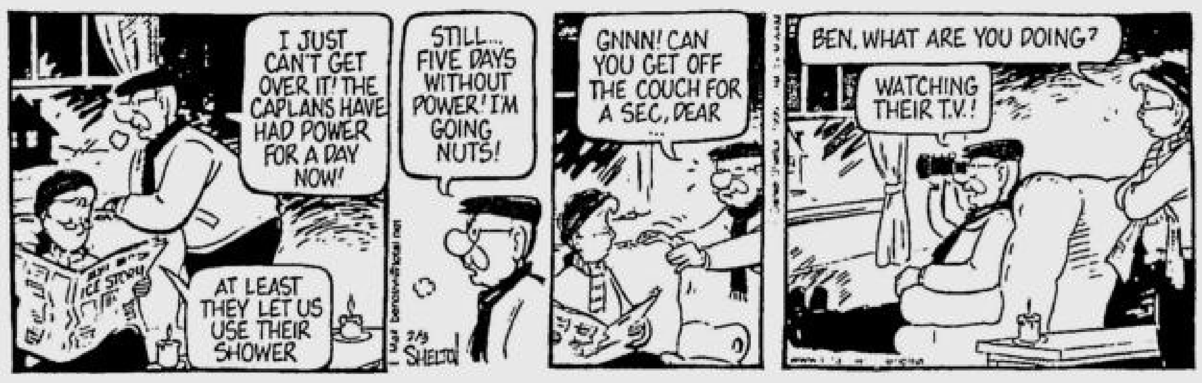
2/3/01

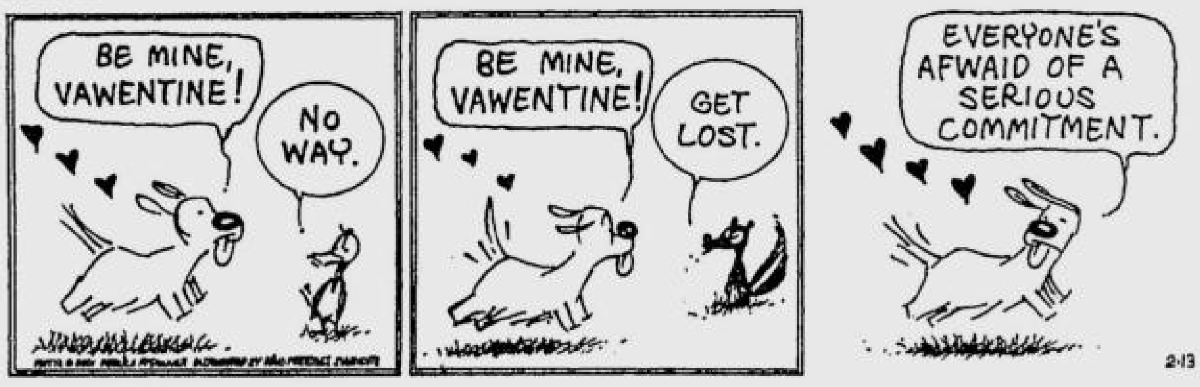
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I JUST CAN'T GET OVER IT! THE CAPLANS HAVE HAD POWER FOR A DAY NOW!
AT LEAST THEY LET US USE THEIR SHOWER
STILL... FIVE DAYS WITHOUT POWER! I'M GOING NUTS!
GNNN! CAN YOU GET OFF THE COUCH FOR A SEC, DEAR
BEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WATCHING THEIR T.V.!

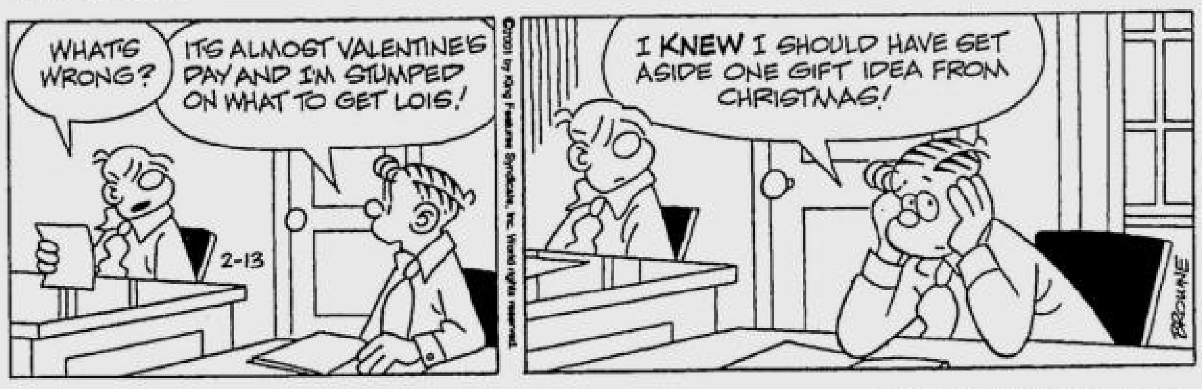
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BE MINE, VAWENTINE!
NO WAY.
BE MINE, VAWENTINE!
GET LOST.
EVERYONE'S AFWAID OF A SERIOUS COMMITMENT.
2-13

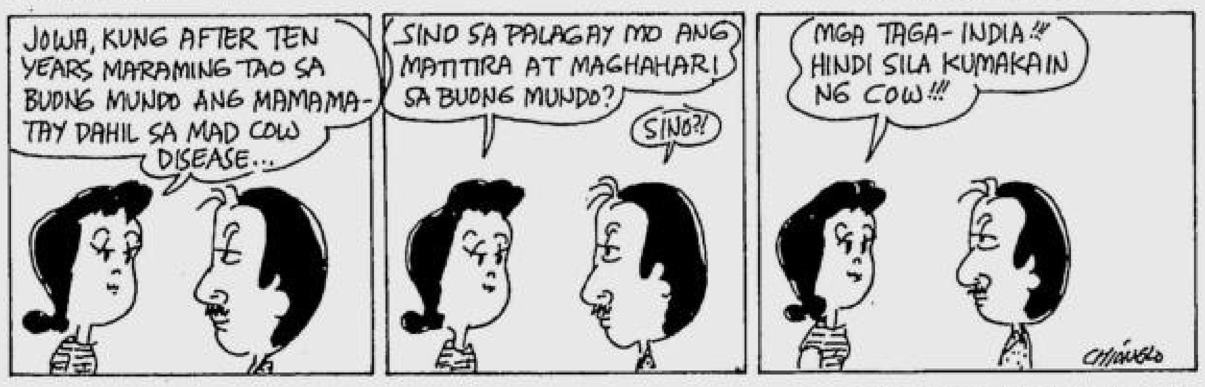
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY AND I'M STUMPED ON WHAT TO GET LOIS!
2-13
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE SET ASIDE ONE GIFT IDEA FROM CHRISTMAS!

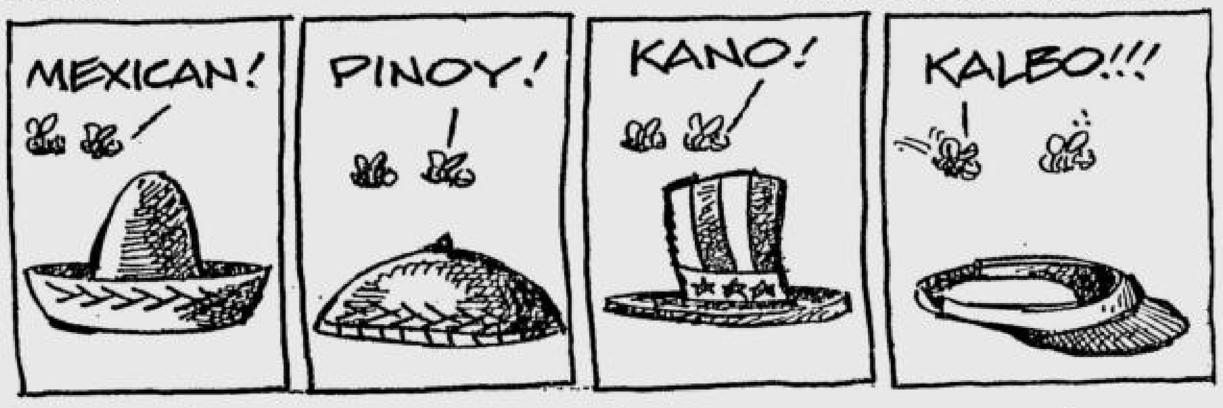
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, KUNG AFTER TEN YEARS MARAMING TAO SA BUONG MUNDO ANG MAMAMATAY DAHIL SA MAD COW DISEASE...
SINO SA PALAGAY MO ANG MATITIRA AT MAGHAHARI SA BUONG MUNDO?
SINO?!
MGA TAGA-INDIA!!! HINDI SILA KUMAKAIN NG COW!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


MEXICAN!
PINOY!
KANO!
KALBO!!!

Real strength comes from within

(From page C1)

soft, able to resonate and pleasant. You should be able to control the volume and pitch at will. Most important, you'll be able to say what you mean and mean what you say," says Gannon.

Corpse pose

The chanting is followed by breathing exercises that help control the diaphragm.

"When you're in the hospital and you're having trouble staying alive and keeping the heart beating, the first thing the doctor does is to stimulate the diaphragm which is associated with the life force. To control the breath and diaphragm, we learn to find our vitality for upliftment," says Life.

"By learning how to control your diaphragm, you shift from an automatic transmission to manual drive. With that, there's a feeling of confidence on the individual. You're not easily swayed by external stimulus," says Gannon.

Once you've unlocked your breath, the exercises follow. The first is the Salutation to the Sun which is likened to a genuflection to the earth, sun, moon and the stars. Other postures assume animal and natural forms that are found in the earth.

"By assuming those shapes, you gain their understanding and develop an empathic connection to the dog, the cat, the snake and the earth," says Gannon. .

The class winds down with a relaxation pose called the corpse pose. Life says it is the yogi practice for the soul to become detached from the awareness of the physical body. The class ends with meditation.

The classes also include tapes of teachings that are relevant to the times.

Vegetarianism

Life says yoga imparts ethically oriented political and social actions.

"Yoga doesn't mean that you stop acting, but you act to perfection. You start with your own body. How do I step with my right foot perfectly? When you learn how you do that, you apply that to your life. You learn to step perfectly to the world. You learn less of a footprint on the earth so there's something left for the baby."

The first precept is *ahimsa* or non-violence. The ultimate goal of yoga is to encourage people to acknowledge God as the ultimate Source.

Vegetarianism is also one of the precepts of yoga. This diet is based on ethical consideration and disdains the killing of animals for human consumption.

This is recommended to people who have reached a plateau in their yoga practice.

"Someone is practicing for a while and they reach a block. They say I can't seem to get any further in the practice. What should I do? My first question: What do you eat? If they're not vegetarian, we encourage them to consider that. In the end that's the only way they will make progress."

Gannon points out, "Vegetarianism isn't for everybody. It's for those who want happiness and a must for those who seek enlightenment."

Sexuality

Life says, "People come to us and say, 'I work for feminism.' I say, 'Do you really? Do you eat eggs, drink milk. Where do eggs come from? The female? Where do eggs come from? A lactating mother? Are you willing to imprison these mothers and take their eggs and take their milk? Why take from another species and say you work for feminism?'

"We are more concerned about political and ethical issues, this issue underlies our problems in the world these days—war, racism, sexism, conflict of religion."

Shannon says they don't convince people to become vegetarians. They simply give them the information and let them decide for themselves.

They also impart *brahmacharya* which means not wasting your sexual energy indiscriminately. "Sexuality that leads to ego enhancement is discouraged," says Life.

The role of the yoga teacher is to inform. He or she isn't there to brainwash you into making a 360-degree turn from your regular lifestyle.

"Yoga is not something you can convert someone to. A person has to want it. People who come to us have the desire," says Gannon.

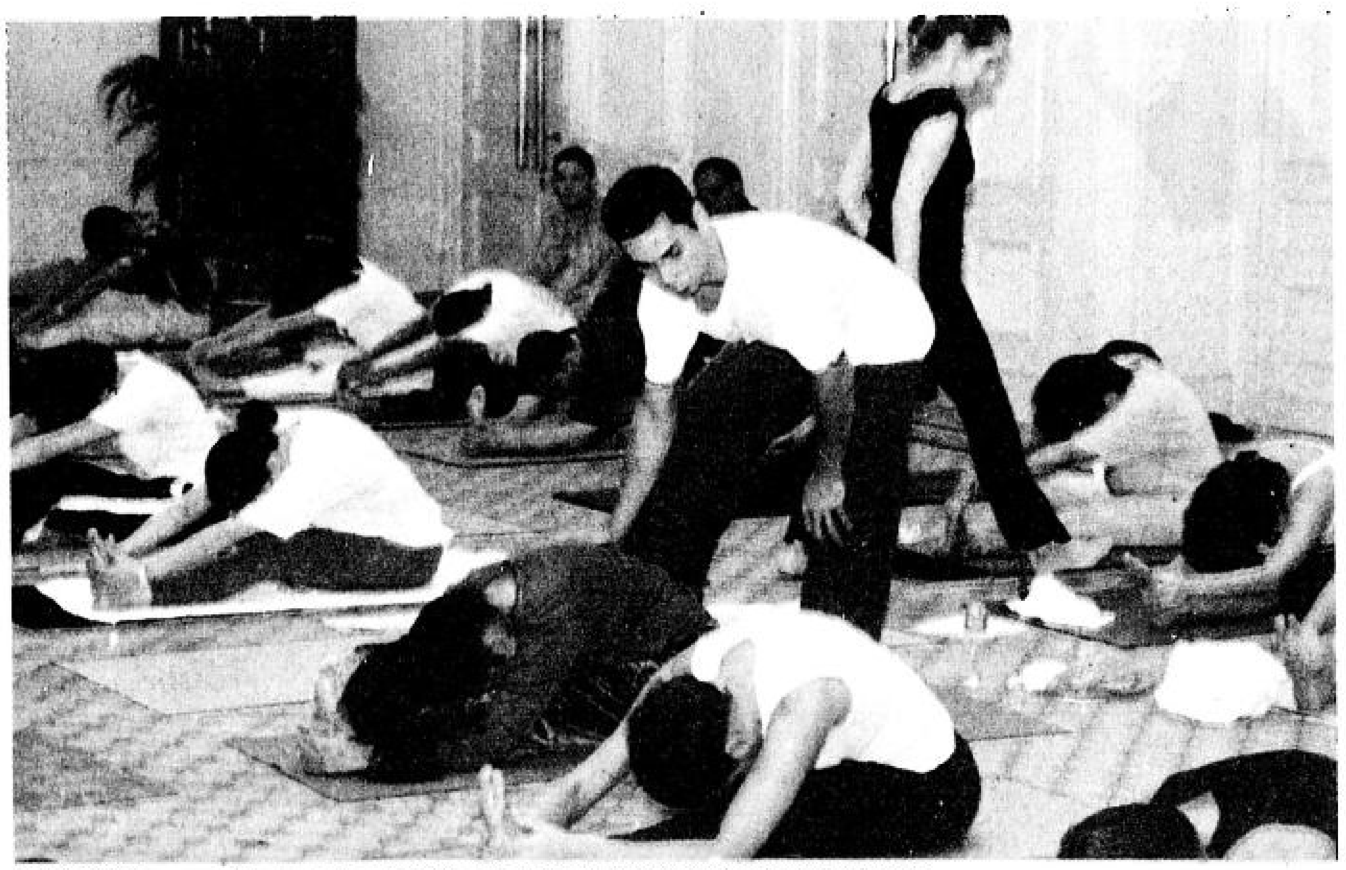
Salutations

Asked if yoga emphasizes more on stretching than building strength, Life explains, "Real strength is inner strength not muscles on the outside. It's the strength that lies deep inside. How was Mother Teresa—that tiny, frail lady—able to minister to people that need spiritual love?

"She didn't minister people. She served God. That's where real strength comes from," says Gannon.

The ultimate goal of yoga is to experience the positive qualities of your inner being and to look at others the same way. Yogis greet each other with the hands folded and say, "*Namaste* (I salute your divine self).". Don't you think it's a better alternative to "*Hoy, tumaba ka!*"

Call the Yoga Foundation of the Philippines at 515-1268. It is located at 2680 F.B. Harrison, Unit B-20, Pasay City

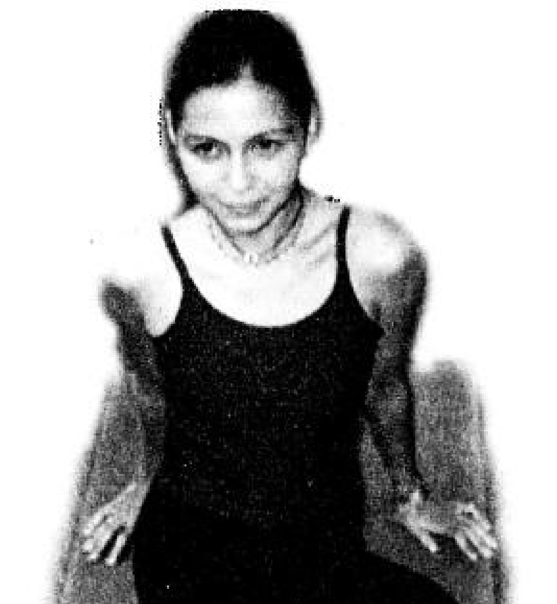


DUNCAN Wong assists workshop participants as they stretch the back of their thighs.

MARGIE Moran does a spinal twist.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Seated hip twist



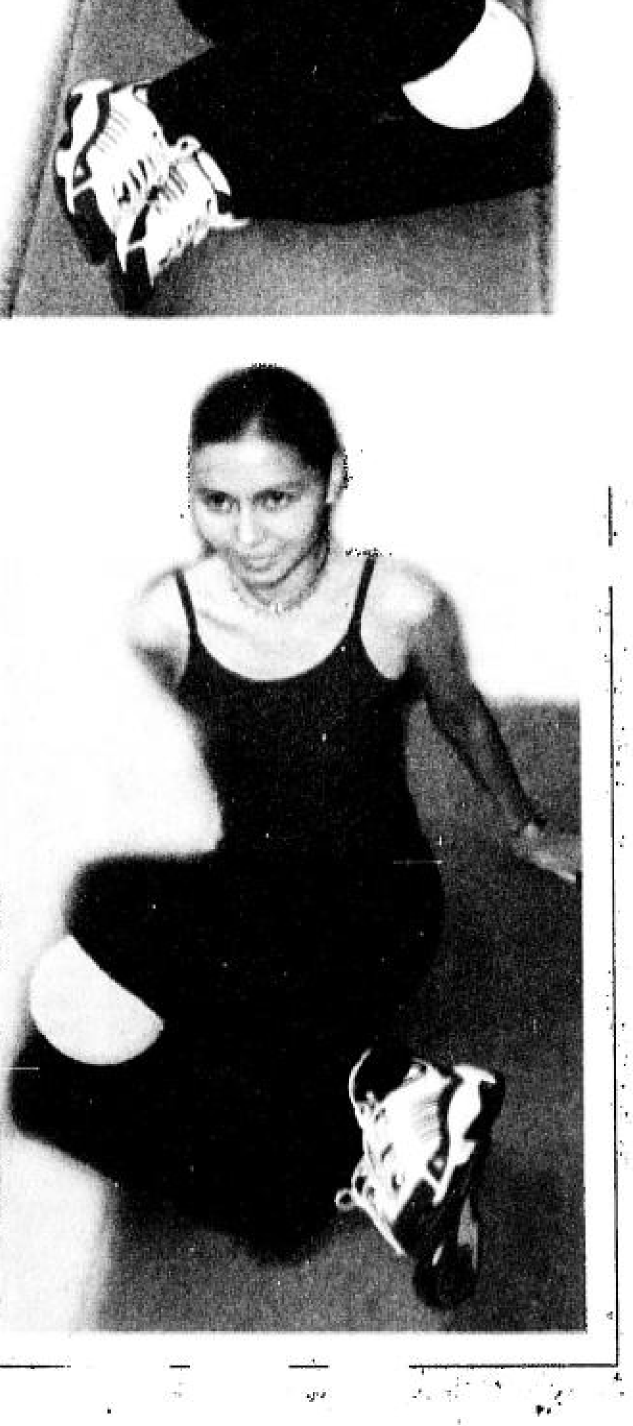
Works the oblique muscles of the abdominal wall. These muscles criss-cross your waist in two opposing layers.

Equipment:

Medicine ball (though the exercise can also be done without a ball) and exercise mat.

Exercise technique:

1. Sit on the mat and place the medicine ball or any other ball of the same size between your knees.
2. Lean back using your arms as support.
3. Take your knees to the right and then to the left in a slow and controlled manner. This counts as one repetition.



Performance tips:

1. Be conscious of your posture as you do this exercise. Do not allow your back to slouch or your shoulders to hunch up.
2. As much as possible, keep your shoulders squarely facing front so you get a good rotation at the waist as you twist your hips from side to side.

Repetitions:

Do 10 repetitions. Rest. Do another set if you want to.

Why isn't parapsychology in the school curriculum?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THERE'S something I've observed among our secondary and collegiate students. Over the past 10 years, there has been a tremendous growth in their interest in the research and study of paranormal subjects.

I've been requested by so many students in almost every private school and a few public ones for interviews on topics like near-death experience, astral projection, ESP, psychokinesis, the third eye, ghosts, automatic writing, UFOs, telepathy, fortune-telling, reincarnation, karma, soul mates, stigmata, clairvoyance and many others.

Teachers are not content that students just write a paper on these topics. They even require students to tape an interview with me, sometimes including a video presentation in class as well.

Since the requests have lately become too numerous, it has not been possible for me to attend to all of them.

Just to give you an idea of how popular these topics are among our students, during the recent Alternative Education Program held at De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, over 90 percent of the subjects and resource persons chosen by the students were involved in paranormal or esoteric subjects. The same was true of choices made by Ateneo University students last year. The great majority of the topics chosen by them involved the paranormal, supernatural or psychic.

I was just wondering, with all this interest demonstrated by our students on these subjects, why isn't there a single school in this country that offers parapsychology as part of the academic curriculum? Parapsychology is the academic discipline or science that studies phenomena that lie outside the scope of orthodox or traditional science. No school offers it in this country.

As far as I know, the only time parapsychology was included in any academic setting was when I taught it for one semester at DLSU in 1982. It was an elective under the Behavioral Sciences Department of the university. Over 60 students enrolled in that pioneering class when only a maximum of 40 was allowed by the school at the time. Even some faculty members expressed a strong desire to sit in but were prevented by the Dean.

In other local schools, paranormal topics are discussed superficially under various academic disciplines such as psychology or sociology or anthropology, often in a negative or disparaging manner.

In a Catholic university where one of my sons studied, the professor of psychology told the class that claims about the existence of so-called ESP powers like telepathy, clairvoyance and psychokinesis were not true. When I asked my son to have the teacher invite me to his class, he panicked and said I'd better not go there. I can back up my statements about paranormal phenomena with scientific documentation gathered after 25 years of research on this subject worldwide.

In North America, Western Europe, especially in Russia, parapsychology (or psychotronics research, as it is called in Eastern Europe) is part of some universities' curriculum. Research in this field in Russia is even funded by the government and done by very serious scientists.

I do not know whether there will be a time in our country when parapsychological or paranormal subjects will be included in the school curriculum. As things stand now, despite the appointment of a progressive secretary of education in the person of former Sen. Raul S. Roco, this seems unlikely to happen in the near future.

Meantime, other countries are moving way ahead of us in the study of this field. This is really a pity because I, along with some Western researchers, have observed that the Philippines is a virtual laboratory of many exciting and extraordinary paranormal happenings. But these are never taken seriously by conservative scientists and academics, except a few daring ones.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

How many calories are you burning in aerobics?

(From page C4)

participants and a trained instructor. They used a music speed of 138-145 beats per minute (a common speed used in this type of class). They found that the caloric burn is anywhere from 6.45-8.3 calories per minute. A combination of punches and kicks burned the most number of calories (8.3) compared to kicking only (7.5 calories) and punches only (6.45 calories).

High-, low-impact aerobics

Low-impact movements always have one foot on the ground while high-impact movements include jumping or hopping so that both feet are off the ground momentarily. Generally, low-impact aerobics will burn about 5.7 calories per minute while high-impact aerobics will burn about eight calories per minute (based on a 150-pound individual). It would seem that high-impact aerobics would be more effective at burning calories in the same amount of time. Unfortunately, many people cannot do high-impact aerobics because of the amount of force that their feet and lower legs have to endure.

It is possible to do low-impact aerobics and get high-impact calorie burning if you know how to do it right. The key is to emphasize your movements by taking bigger steps, covering more space during movements that take you forward and backward or side to side, coming up and down more during moves that require you to bend your knees, lifting your legs higher, and using more powerful arm movements.

Intense but safe

Safety is always the No. 1 issue to consider because your body doesn't have spare parts available. However, you also don't want to waste time when you could be burning more calories. So the trick then is to walk a tightrope wherein you challenge yourself but you still stay within the safe range. Protect your joints but don't baby yourself either when you could actually be doing more.

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines will hold a Basic Instructor Course in Davao City on April 6 and 7.There will also be a Davao Fitness Workshop that is open to the public on April 9. For more details, call Tina Lorenzana at (082) 222-4207.

For past articles or exercises, visit my website at www.tinajuanfitness.com

How many calories are you burning in aerobics?

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

IN REACTION to last week's column on whether the calories burned while using cardiovascular machines like treadmills and steppers are accurate, a reader wanted to know how many calories are burned while doing aerobic classes. This is an important question since many women (and some men) do aerobics as a way of controlling their weight. Most of us don't have the time to spend hours in the gym so it is to our benefit that we make our aerobic classes as time- and calorie-efficient as possible to get more value out of them.

Exactly how many calories you actually burn doing aerobics depends on how much you weigh, the speed of the music and the quality and kind of your movement. Let's take a look at how these factors affect the three most common types of aerobics classes—step, high-low impact and kickboxing.

How much you weigh

It takes more energy to move a heavier mass than it does to move a lighter one. That is one of the laws of physics. That's why a lighter and smaller car consumes less gas than a heavier and bigger car. So whenever you look at a chart that lists how many calories are burned for a particular activity, take note of the weight of the "reference" person the calculations are based on. Then you can more accurately estimate how much you would burn. For example, a 150-pound person would burn approximately 170 calories for 30 minutes of low-impact aerobics while a 130-pound individual would burn 148 calories.

Speed of the music

Generally, the faster you move, the more calories you burn. This would seem to suggest that if you want to make the most out of your aerobic class time, you should be using really fast music. However, there are other things to consider, like the long-term safety of your joints. Unfortunately, at faster speeds people tend to fling their arms and legs and this can cause joint damage over a period of time. In terms of the risk-benefit ratio (how much benefit you get for the risk you take), this is not a good deal. Your joints are much more important than burning more calories per class.

Quality of your movement

When I was learning how to become an aerobics instructor, one of the things my trainer kept drumming into my head was to exaggerate my movements. What she meant was that I had to emphasize my body movements with full range of motion and power so that I could motivate my students. I remember thinking, "Wow, this is hard work," because by emphasizing my movements, I was taking the intensity of my workout to a much higher level than I ever experienced as a student.

It is a common story among aerobic instructors that their students complain the class is not "hard" enough and yet the teacher is practically killing himself or herself with the intensity. The problem lies in the fact that students are usually doing "baby" movements. The quality of their movements is mediocre. Even a kickboxing class can be so-so in intensity if the students will only use their arms to box instead of getting the power of the moves from their whole body.

Step aerobics

Since its introduction in the late '80s, step aerobics has become a staple in gyms around the world. The popularity of step lies partly in the fact that the intensity of the class remains fairly unchanged from beginning to end. As they say, "You can't fool the bench." Even if you are tired, you still have to go up and down carrying your full body weight. In other forms of aerobics, you burn fewer calories as you get tired because you subconsciously make smaller movements. However, in spite of this built-in advantage of step aerobics, there are still ways to increase the amount of calories you burn per session.

The caloric cost of step aerobics is anywhere from 6-11 calories per minute. It all depends on how much you weigh, how high the bench is, whether you are using your arms or not, whether you are stepping on or hopping on the bench, and how fast the music is.

The higher the bench, the greater the caloric cost. According to researchers, doing step aerobics on 6-, 8-, 10- and 12-inch benches respectively consumes about 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5 calories per minute. In general, for every 2-inch increase in step height, there is a corresponding 17-percent increase in caloric burn. However, this is not always a safe way to burn more calories because if you use a bench height that is too high for you, you will eventually destroy your knees.

How do you know if the bench height is appropriate for you? The right height is dependent on the length of your thigh bone and your cardiovascular fitness level. If your knees advance past your toes as you step up, your bench is too high for you. Unless you are over 5'4", a 6-inch bench is usually the most comfortable for your knees. Most beginners should start with a 4-inch bench regardless of their height.

Using arm movements increases caloric cost as if you had switched to a bench that was 2 inches higher. "Power" moves like hopping, leaping and propelling on the bench does the same.

Therefore, you could be on a 4-inch bench, using your arms to the fullest while hopping on the bench and you would be burning as many calories as a person on an 8-inch bench who was not using her arms and was not hopping.

You might think that adding hand weights would be a good way to drive your caloric count higher. Here's what research has found.

There is not much difference between using 1-pound hand weights and arm movements with no hand weights at all even though the hand weights might make you feel like you are working harder. Using 2-pound weights will increase caloric burn by about 1 calorie per minute (the same as a 2-inch increase in bench height). However, the weights have to be pumped vigorously and this will eventually cause problems in the shoulder joint aside from the fact that the shoulder muscles get fatigued rapidly. Using 3-pound weights actually resulted in fewer calories because participants couldn't keep up with the speed of the music and they slowed down their arm movements.

Kickboxing

Aerobic kickboxing is a relative newcomer to the scene but it has many avid followers who love the intensity they feel they are getting from it. In 1999, the American Council on Exercise wanted to find out exactly how many calories are actually burned doing aerobic kickboxing. They commissioned Dr. Len Kravitz of the University of Mississippi to do a study using trained

HOW/ p.C3

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